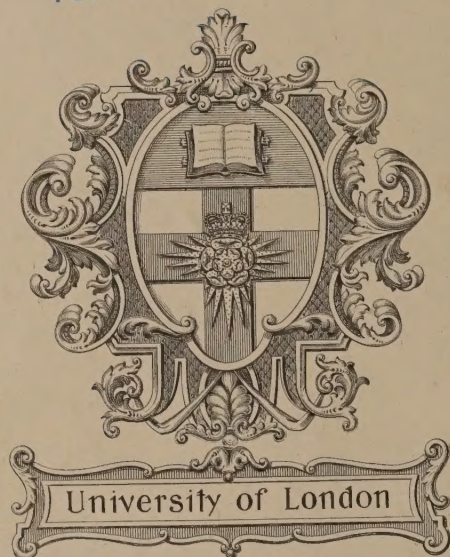
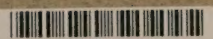


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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

THIRTY-EIGHT VOLUMES.

—(36.)—

STATE PAPERS.

JAPAN; MEXICO; MOROCCO; TURKEY.

Session

6 February — 7 August 1862.

VOL. LXIV.

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THIRTY-SIXTH VOLUME.

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CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN JAPAN.

JULY TO NOVEMBER 1861.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

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Correspondence respecting Affairs in Japan.

No. 1.

Mr. Alcock to Lord J. Russell.—(Received October 3.)

(Extract.)

Yeddo, July 6, 1861.

BEFORE another night closes in, with its contingencies, which may well prevent my addressing your Lordship again, I am anxious to submit a simple statement of the events which have marked the last; for, whether I survive or not, it is essential that Her Majesty's Government should be well and duly informed of all that has taken place. We have escaped a massacre, but, seemingly, by the merest chance.

I had only returned from Kanagawa four-and-twenty hours, bringing Mr. Morrison and another gentleman with me, on a visit to Yeddo—the Legation being further augmented by the recent arrival of Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Russell—when the long-threatened onslaught roused us all from our beds a little before midnight. Frequently as I had been warned that such a deed was actually in contemplation, I confess I felt incredulous when Mr. Robertson, who, previous to his retiring to rest, always takes the duty of going through the premises, came to tell me that there was a conflict going on outside, and that men were forcing their way through the gates. I had barely time to seize my revolver and advance a few steps, when I heard blows and cries, and the report of a pistol in the passage which runs at the end of my own apartments. The next moment both Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Morrison staggered forward, exclaiming that they were wounded; and I saw the blood flowing profusely from the former, whose left arm was disabled. Mr. Russell, Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Lowder followed; the rest of the Legation were missing. Uncertain how many our assailants were, or from how many quarters the attack might be effected (since a Japanese house is open on all sides, and every partition consists entirely of doors and windows only, or sliding-panels offering no resistance), a brief interval of intense anxiety followed, while I stood in momentary expectation of seeing men pour in from the passage in pursuit. After a short lull, some of the band were heard outside the apartment adjoining my bedroom, breaking their way through some glazed doors. Exposed to attack from every side, with no sign of a yaconin or guard, several minutes were thus passed, two of our number disabled, and the rest of us standing at bay with such arms as had been hastily seized. Our enemies had evidently mistaken their way, and the increased distance of the shouts and yells gave reason to hope they had at last been come up with by the yaconins, and had sought their safety by leaving the house. To escape from a state of intolerable suspense I went towards the principal entrance for a moment, and to Mr. Macdonald's room, to ascertain, if possible, what had become of him: and while on my way we thought they had returned in force, seeing at the further end of a passage a number of armed men advancing who would not answer our challenge. A shot was fired by Mr. Lowder, and they disappeared. Still the noise of clamour and conflict continued outside, and it seemed very long indeed before we saw any of those (to the number of some 150) Tycoon's and Daimio's men, who had been held to afford us such ample protection! At last two or three of the officers permanently on service appeared, to say that they hoped the house was clear, but begging us to keep together at one end, while they made further search.

I had now a moment of respite to turn to Messrs. Oliphant and Morrison, and dress their wounds, though amidst alarms of renewed attack; which, I may add, recurred at

frequent intervals until daybreak. The Legation is unfortunately, by its structure and position, more absolutely indefensible than can well be conceived. A large straggling building joined to a temple, it lies in a hollow surrounded by wooded hills, which, like a jungle, could afford cover to any number of enemies undiscoverable in the dark, until they made their spring, or fired upon us. From front and rear, through the temple, or on the opposite flank from the wood, an entry can be made over the whole area. And thus it happened that entrance was actually effected from three different sides; partly, no doubt, with a view of distracting the attention of those on the defensive, and also the more surely and rapidly to effect their object of destruction to all in the Legation.

Most providentially, the party, which seems to have been destined to penetrate the interior of the house, and finish the work there, mistook their way to the part occupied by myself from the beginning, and where all who remained after the first alarm were speedily collected, as the most defensible position. Had they entered the grounds from that side (and nothing was easier), steps and a path led directly to my bedroom, and I should have most likely had no time even to seize a weapon, for there was nothing to obstruct their entrance.

Even later, when they were breaking through the glazed doors, they had but to step through a low gauze-covered window not ten yards from where we stood, and they would have been upon us. Under Providence, there is no doubt that to this mainly we owe our safety.

I have only further to report that at break of day I despatched three mounted yaconins with a letter, of which I inclose a copy, to Captain Craigie, commanding Her Majesty's despatch-boat "Ringdove," to request him to move up the bay, and land a guard, with which requisition he promptly complied, landing himself with twenty-five men about 1 P.M.

Mr. Oliphant I then sent on board, that his wounds might be cared for in safety, and Mr. Morrison, with the other gentleman on a visit; I also forwarded by boat to Kanagawa, that no one whose duty did not attach them to the Legation might incur further risk.

I must not omit to mention that M. Duchesne de Bellecourt, who was at Yokohama, very generously put himself on board the "Ringdove," with a French guard from the "Dordogne," a transport ship of the French navy, in order to join me and share the anxieties of the position.

I ascertained before daylight that Mr. Harris was quite safe. The American Legation had not been attacked, and no other Diplomatic Agent was in Yeddo at the time. I have addressed a short letter to each of my colleagues, copy of which I inclose, informing them of the occurrence.

Of the killed and wounded among the Japanese assailants and defenders, I have seen ten of the Tycoon's and Daimio's men who were wounded, and two who had been killed in our defence. Three of the loönins were nearly hacked to pieces and slain on the spot; one wounded and still surviving has been taken prisoner. If others were wounded, as it is reported, and otherwise probable,* they escaped in the darkness; and there is a rumour that four committed the "hari-kari" the next morning to avoid arrest.

From the wounded men, no doubt the Japanese authorities were they themselves the object of attack, or could they be induced to act with good faith, would find means of extracting the true history of this atrocious attempt at wholesale assassination, and discovering the Chief whose orders they were executing. But whether they will do so, or ever communicate it to me even if they obtain it for themselves, is more than doubtful. A list of some forty names was found on the person of one of the killed or wounded.

I wished to send the wounded prisoner on board the man of war to be cured and kept in safe custody, but the Governors of Foreign Affairs sent to take measures were so determinately opposed to it, that I could only have effected my purpose by force and a risk of collision, which I did not feel justified in provoking. Failing this, I cannot think there is much hope of his recovery in their hands, if he has untoward revelations to make as to his employers.

The next morning the Legation looked as if it had been sacked after a serious conflict. Screens and mats were all spotted with blood, the former thrown down, broken, and torn; furniture and bedding all hacked, books even cut through by their sabres, and the marks of fury and violence everywhere. That our guards fought there is no doubt whatever; but it is equally clear that they were, as I always asserted, utterly ineffective against a surprise; and, in truth, they left the Legation, notwithstanding their great superiority in numbers, at least ten minutes to its own resources, during which time the loönins were in possession trying to discover the inmates. What the number of them was it is impossible

* One since arrested.

to ascertain. The officers estimate them at seventeen or eighteen, divided into three bands, but it is difficult to believe it was so small. The servants say they were fifty, and the list of forty exists. Besides the Tycoon's and Daimio's men killed and wounded, two of the servants were cut down near the entrance—a coolie of mine and the porter at the front gate; and a groom of one of the yaconins was killed on the spot in the avenue.

Living now for more than two years, ever since my arrival, under a standing menace of such an attack, I have never deceived myself as to the futility of the measures taken by the Tycoon's Government for my protection.

I have made such dispositions in concert with Captain Craigie, the French officer, and the Japanese officers, as may best prevent the possibility of being surprised again and caught defenceless; and for further making such defence if attacked, against which contingency we have really no other security, as may defeat, with severe loss to the assailants, any effort such a band may make. I hope to have to report at a later date that these measures have been attended with success, either in preventing or resisting attack.

As to the future, I have determined on nothing yet. Admiral Sir James Hope writes that he purposes coming with one or two ships on the 15th; until then I shall probably only seek to maintain my present defensive position, however little it may be in accordance with diplomatic traditions that a foreign Minister should live in a state of siege, under menace of slaughter in the Legation, or assassination in the streets.

One thing only is clear to me at the present moment, and that is the impossibility of our relations being maintained on their present footing. This is neither peace nor war; and the position, without some fundamental changes, is altogether untenable.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Mr. Alcock to Captain Craigie.

Sir,

Yeddo, July 6, 1861, 2 A.M.

A LITTLE before midnight a band of assassins broke into the Legation at four different points, and spread over the house in search of the occupants. We had all retired to bed, and Mr. Oliphant starting up, met some of the ruffians in the passage, and received a sword-cut through his wrist, and a sabre-wound in the neck. Mr. Morrison also in like manner met them as he left his room, and was wounded. They have been beaten off with the tardy aid of the yaconins; but there is no security for the rest of the night even, and still less hereafter.

I have to request, therefore, that you will without delay bring your vessel to Yeddo, and land as strong a guard of Marines as you can muster, with an officer, to remain until I can determine what course it may be most expedient to follow for the safety of the Legation and the maintenance of Treaty rights.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RUTHERFORD ALCOCK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Mr. Alcock to Messrs. Harris, De Bellecourt, and De Wit.

(Extract.)

Yeddo, July 6, 1861.

LAST night between 11 and 12 o'clock the British Legation was suddenly attacked, and an entrance effected at several points simultaneously by armed bands of Japanese, said by some to be loonins, and by others Prince of Mito's men. Two of the number of the establishment, Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Morrison, were met in a passage, and both wounded, the first I am sorry to say very severely, when a momentary diversion was effected by a shot from Mr. Morrison's revolver, which appeared to have taken effect. A few moments later the same or another division of the assassins sought to effect an entrance to the apartments occupied by myself, by breaking through and hacking to pieces some glass-doors opening on to another suite, having mistaken their way. To this alone, under Providence, we probably owe our lives, for several minutes were lost to them, at the end of which some of the yaconins or Dainios' guard appear to have come to the spot, and the assailants were finally driven out of the house, after having penetrated into nearly every room except my own, leaving traces of their presence by slashing at all the beds and furniture. Marks of blood were found in various directions, and a prolonged conflict took

place outside in the avenue and approaches to the Legation with the officers and men on service.

Such a deed of atrocity, perpetrated in the capital of a Government to which foreign Representatives are accredited by the Western Powers, needs no comments. I only feel it a duty to communicate the facts to my colleagues, for their guidance and information, and to acquaint them that as a temporary measure I have ordered up Her Majesty's ship "Ringdove," and caused a guard of men to be landed. What measures it may be expedient to adopt for future security of this and the other Legations in Yeddo, and the maintenance of those international rights and immunities so grievously attacked, becomes a serious consideration, and one the importance of which cannot well be overlooked.

No. 2.

Mr. Alcock to Lord J. Russell.—(Received October 3.)

(Extract.)

Yeddo, July 9, 1861.

THREE days and nights have now passed since the attack of the 5th, and there has been no renewal of the attempt. The band actually engaged must have been in some degree disorganized by the night's work; and, were it otherwise, with a strong guard of British and French, they could scarcely hope a second time to succeed in a surprise, and would see the necessity of attacking, if at all, with an overwhelming force. Those who set such instruments at work were probably not prepared for the failure of the first assault, and the consequent necessity of recommencing with much larger numbers. Perhaps they may change their plans, and try if it will not be easier to assail me individually, and the members of the several Legations, as we pass along the streets or country roads in our rides. This seems so much more feasible that I confess I am unable to understand why they did not profit by the thousand opportunities afforded in the journey of thirty-three days from Nagasaki overland. Not only were we without any guards at night, but in the day-time M. de Wit and I rode on habitually with only one or two mounted yaconins, and sometimes we were quite alone, and unarmed always; for notwithstanding the earnest warning of danger we received from the Governor of Nagasaki, who had orders to dissuade us from the journey, and the renewed apprehensions expressed by one of the Governors of Foreign Affairs, who was sent by the Ministers to Hiogo, once more to attempt to stop our progress, and turn us seaward, we were both incredulous.

The dislike of the governing powers to the exercise of the Treaty right of travelling by the Diplomatic Agents is so constantly manifested and so well known that the warnings have no meaning, and fall on the ear as words of course. Their habitual resort to a system of intimidation, too, and warnings of danger, as a means of deterring us from moving out of prison-bounds, or entering into social intercourse, or any relations with the people, and a ready excuse for all the vexatious restrictions by which we are surrounded, under guise of extreme anxiety for our safety, naturally make us all very sceptical as to the truth of such representations. The more so, that however effective all these measures of restriction and protection may be, for the ends just explained, we see and know how utterly useless they are for the ostensible end of insuring us from danger or insult. The impossibility of ever obtaining truth in great things or in small from the officials, whatever their rank (the highest to the lowest are equally false), and their unceasing and determined efforts to mislead, when they cannot keep us in total ignorance of all that may really be passing around us, constitutes one of the great difficulties of our position. Independent of other disadvantages attending this policy, so perseveringly adhered to, it has this especially of making it impossible to place any faith in the information they tender, if by any chance it should happen to be true, and important to our safety. Thus, had we believed in any real or special danger threatening us by the overland route, for the Government's sake as well as our own, we should have hesitated to undertake it, and probably have foregone our intention.

And even now, whether it was by anticipation of a great danger which they knew I was to encounter later, and as a sort of justification prepared in advance, as evidence of their vigilance and extreme anxiety for my safety, or that they really had come upon some traces of a plot, without knowing when or where the blow was to be aimed, which they did not wish to take effect, must remain altogether uncertain. But I have no faith in the sincerity of any desire to secure our safety on the part of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, who to us are the organs of the Great Council of State, and their mouth-pieces merely.

If these attacks and assassinations, which latterly have all been directed against the

Legations of Foreign Powers, have no other than a political object (how is it possible to believe anything else?), then it is all but impossible to believe that the authors and instigators, as well as the instruments, are not perfectly well known to some or all of the twenty-four powerful Daimios who constitute the Great Council of State, and are well known as hostile to the foreign policy forced upon them by the acts of their predecessors. These acts of violence are all in perfect accordance with the desire they do not conceal, to extricate the country from the obligations of Treaties, and revert to the ancient policy of isolation, even at the price of a violent rupture. The Ministers themselves have more than once ventured to hint that there might be worse evils to Japan than such a rupture; and the injury to the country inflicted by the development of foreign trade might make such a step incumbent upon them, and otherwise inevitable. If the Ministers adopted this text as an argument for compelling us to defer the opening of the other ports, it was because the Great Council of Daimios so instructed them.

There are, indeed, but two rational modes of accounting for the long chain of assassinations and attempts on life by which a system of terrorism and intimidation is enforced; a system, be it remembered, of which the Japanese authorities are the willing organs, ever recurring in their communications to the dangers which surround the foreign Representatives and their countrymen generally. One explanation, and the most usual supplied by the Government and its agents is this,—the traditional policy of the country for nearly three centuries had been one of absolute exclusion and isolation; it had taken root in the hearts of the people, and under this policy they, as their ancestors, had been happy, prosperous, and undisturbed. Moved by various considerations suggested first by the Dutch and afterwards urged upon them by the Americans, the governing powers in an evil hour had been induced to make a sudden and violent change, admitting foreigners and their trade, with diplomatic relations and free intercourse; thus reversing all the traditions of the country. Since then nothing but trouble and danger had resulted. The demands of foreign trade were far beyond the resources of the country; hence increased dearness of every article of native consumption, public discontent, and suffering among the masses impoverished by what the party who entered into Treaties vainly hoped would lead to their enrichment, until at last there is but one cry,—to banish the foreigner as he was expelled before, and to let them be at peace with plenty in their houses. The Government desiring, nevertheless, to keep faith with foreign Powers, have striven in vain to allay this agitation, and quiet the public mind, and the consequence is that lawless and violent men, driven to despair by poverty, and looking upon foreigners as the cause of a general pressure and the enemies of their country, are willing even to sacrifice themselves in effecting the destruction of those who are so hateful, and the Government is powerless to prevent it.

Another version comes also from official sources, and more especially as regards this last, and by far the boldest and most sweeping, attempt at extermination, bearing a character of open defiance to a foreign Power, not supposed to be the least ready or capable of avenging a wrong, and defending its rights when these are attacked. They would have us believe that in the conflict of opinions and interests, the confusion and trouble to which the signing of the Treaties and a departure from the long-established customs and laws of the country fatally led, several men in power were disgraced, and Prince Mito, one of the Royal brothers, deposed and banished, and that their followers took upon themselves to avenge their masters. Hence the murder of the Gotiro; hence divers assassinations of foreigners, these being more or less identified with the misfortunes of their feudal Chiefs; and hence the last determined onslaught directed against the British Legation, which, if successful, could hardly fail to lead to a rupture and hostilities involving the existing Government, who were their master's enemies, in probable ruin, amidst the dangers of a war with foreign Powers; or, in any case, giving a chance, amidst the difficulties of their position, for some more effective blow to be aimed at them.

According to this view, those now in power as the Government of the country have the strongest personal interest in exterminating the party from whence our danger really comes, and their safety is thus identified with our own.

But there is one serious difficulty opposed to the acceptance of this version as the true explanation, and that is, first, the undoubted fact that this supposed unity of interest does not in the least prevent the Council of State following out, with manifest bad faith, a most determined policy of obstructiveness, retrograde in all its purposes and details; and, secondly, that no extremity of danger which, according to their own information, threatens us, induces them to adopt any but the most futile and puerile means for our protection, whether outside or inside the Legation. Despite all these, at any hour of the day or night we may be slain, or the national flags outraged by insult and violence offered to the Representatives of foreign Powers.

Such things have happened too often already to need further demonstration; while,

on the other hand, these same measures, so idle and manifestly useless for our protection, are perfectly effective for the end we know to be so dear to their hearts, though never avowed, namely, our isolation from the people, and the prevention of all intercourse with the educated classes of our own rank, from whom some true information might be obtained as to the actual state of the country, and any public opinion there may be: though it is a burlesque to talk of public opinion in a country where all who have voice or influence in public affairs are limited to a few hundred feudal Chiefs, while the rest of the nation are wholly ignored, save as tillers of the soil and hewers of wood, who work to provide food for, and supply the more material wants of, a large population.

It is obvious, I think, that there is too great an accordance in the end clearly aimed at by the Government on the one side, and these armed disturbers of the peace, so plausibly denounced, but so certainly allowed to work their will, and never pursued or punished by the ruling Powers, to allow any one capable of a sane judgment from accepting without reservation the theory of the Ministers as satisfactorily accounting for such a continued series of outrages, unchecked and unpunished. However bad we may suppose their police to be, and inefficient all their means of repression and defence, a Government with such determined assailants could not exist, if in vindication of their own authority they could do no more than has been done in our case in the present instance, when it might have been supposed that even the Japanese Government would see the policy and feel the necessity, if only for the sake of appearances, of some unusual demonstration of sympathy and indignation, some manifestation of a consciousness that for such a deed to take place in their capital was a foul stain upon the nation, unless the vigour and frankness of the Government in affording reparation should obliterate all suspicion of complicity. But there has been no sign of unwonted energy, no departure from the same apathetic and stereotyped forms of condolence, the same fatuitous going to and fro of subordinate officials, and the same idle talk of a pursuit of the criminals, punishment, &c., if they should be found, which has marked their proceedings in every one of the previous cases; to be followed very certainly, I believe, by the same empty result. They are far from appearing to have any sense of the atrocious nature and enormity of the outrage offered to the nation, in the person of its Representative whose Legation was carried by assault in the midst of a large force, ostensibly on the spot for his protection from such an attack; a force which allowed itself to be so completely surprised that not a blow was struck in my defence until after the assassins had ample time and opportunity for accomplishing their bloody work. Was it intended that my brave defenders should be surprised, and fight only in the end? When it is remembered that from the front gate opening on the great tokaido or main street at the end of my avenue, to the gate closing the courtyard of the Legation itself, there is a distance of nearly 300 yards; that along this line a large portion of the guards are quartered; that a porter at each gate was cut down; a servant of a yaconin and a dog that was barking were both killed in the intervening space, and yet that a large band of men were uninterrupted by the guards quartered on the ground expressly to prevent such an attempt, and had time allowed them to force open the gate, break through the panels of the front entrance, and pour into the house through this and two other places,—it is difficult to avoid some suspicion of foul play. Some inquiry was at least due, as to how such a disgraceful failure of duty could have occurred. But not a word. It seems to be taken as quite a matter of course that these desperadoes, being very cunning and determined fellows (all which was known before), should have surprised my guards and spread over the house. What is to be said or thought of such people? There was even a guard so placed as to command a view of my own apartments, within thirty yards where, during at least ten minutes, we were exposed momentarily to an attack from the band scattered over the house in search of us; and when Mr. Macdonald, whose room is just below the guard-house, called them, not a man stirred to our rescue, but the whole party contented themselves with beating the bamboos in signal of alarm, while for aught they could know our throats were being cut. Then after such a night comes a Governor of Foreign Affairs, deputed from the Ministers gravely to felicitate me on my escape and my return to Yeddo; praying me to accept a basket of ducks and a jar of sugar in token of amity! Your Lordship will, I am sure, not blame me, that I desired the messenger to take his presents back with him, and tell his principal I desired justice and redress, not ducks or sugar, at the hands of his Government. I have little more to add at present. I have written officially to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Alcock to the Japanese Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

Yeddo, July 7, 1861.

I HAVE refrained from writing to your Excellencies during the first twenty-four hours, while under the immediate impression of the deed of atrocity which marked the night of the 5th instant. In affairs of such grave importance, where not only life is at stake, but national honour and questions of peace or war may be involved, it is well to consider calmly and maturely what course remains to be followed, before action is taken from which it may be impossible, at a later period, to recede.

I need not go into much detail in reference to the occurrences which took place on the night in question, because from your own officers on service here, and the Governors of Foreign Affairs whom you sent, the principal facts must be already known. Shortly before midnight, bands of armed men broke into the Legation at three different points, notwithstanding all the measures of protection you have so long maintained to be sufficient, under a standing menace of attack and massacre. This you doubtless already know. But you may yet have to learn that while the guards outside were engaged with some of the band, the inmates of the Legation were left wholly undefended for many minutes, while midnight assassins were threading the passages and ransacking the rooms in search of their intended victims. Two of my officers, coming suddenly upon three of them, were attacked and wounded, Mr. Oliphant very severely. They both owe their escape from the swords of their assailants, in great measure, to the low transverse beam and narrowness of the passage, which prevented many of the blows taking effect, and the free use of the weapons wielded against them. Several minutes after this struggle, another party penetrated a courtyard at the side of my own apartments, and broke into the room of one of the Attachés through some glass doors, which they shattered into fragments with their swords. All this time not a single Japanese officer or guard appeared; and had the miscreants only known where to find my rooms, instead of losing their time in hunting through the other apartments, they would probably, after some loss of life on their own side, have accomplished their object of a general massacre.

It must be evident, from this brief statement of facts as they occurred, that the surprise and attack of the Legation was, up to a certain point, quite successful; that they succeeded in penetrating into the interior, which should have been the most difficult part of their undertaking, and for many minutes held possession, at liberty to kill all they could find, without pursuit or hindrance from those who, on the part of the Tycoon, were responsible for our safety. And this, although two at least of the bands forced their way up the main avenue, through the gates of the Legation and the Temple, which they never should have been allowed to reach alive, having in effect passed all the line of yaconins' quarters in gaining the principal approach to the building. The life of no Minister can for a moment be secure in a country where armed men can be set on to attack the Legation, and its ostensible defenders allow them supinely to penetrate to the very doors without impediment. It is not enough that many, both of the Tycoon's and the Daimio's men, did actually fight subsequently when once thoroughly roused to the imminence of the danger. Several were wounded, and some killed, and those probably did their duty valiantly. What I complain of is, that they did it so tardily that already the Legation had been entered, and all within might have been murdered before they came to their rescue.

It is evident, therefore, that liability to attack and assassination, so far as any measures of protection and defence hitherto taken by the Japanese Government are concerned, continues to exist; and in view of this contingency, while yet reflecting upon the ulterior steps it may be needful to take, I have caused one of Her Majesty's ships to come to Yeddo, and a strong British guard to be landed, as a reinforcement to the Japanese on service, for the better protection of the Legation.

Under a solemn pledge of adequate protection, given in the name of the Tycoon and the Great Council of State, to the foreign Representatives, they consented once more to trust themselves in Yeddo, after their temporary retirement to Yokohama, and without other protection than the Government of the country could afford. And this is the result! Within four months a band of armed men are allowed to penetrate the Legation, not by stealth, but by forcing their way through the main entrance, and with ample time to murder every one of its inmates before any of the defenders came to their aid.

A deed so atrocious has rarely been recorded in the history of nations, civilized or savage. A more grievous outrage of all the rights and immunities secured to Ministers of foreign Powers, by the international law of all civilized nations, cannot be conceived. All

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relations, indeed, diplomatic or commercial, become impossible if such deeds can be tolerated by the Government of the country. Unless signal satisfaction be given, and ample security for the future, the common voice of Europe will hold the Government responsible for the acts of its subjects.

It remains for the Government of the Tycoon to decide which alternative they will accept upon this occasion. I trust, in the interest of Japan, that they will not hesitate between the ban of all the Great Powers of European race and its consequences, and the honest determination to vindicate themselves from all complicity with assassins and their employers by doing full justice upon both. I am aware that it has always pleased the Japanese authorities to represent the numerous assassinations of foreigners, and attempts on their lives—this among the rest—as the result of a popular hatred to the relations with foreigners re-established recently by Treaties. But I must be permitted also to state to your Excellencies that I have felt it my duty to assure my Government I am thoroughly convinced by my own observation, and such other sources of information as I possess (despite all the efforts made by Japanese authorities everywhere, to cut us off from all knowledge of the people and the true state of public feeling), that such is not the fact. Whatever hostility is felt for foreigners in Japan comes from above, and not from below. The real enemies of foreigners are all to be found among the Daimio class and their armed followers, mere creatures of their masters' will, and not among the people who form the mass.

The first step, therefore, towards a better policy must be greater frankness in giving information, and greater willingness to trust foreign Representatives with knowledge of the true state of affairs, and authentic information. No better occasion could be found than the present for inaugurating such relations; and before I take any further step in the present grave conjuncture, I would urge upon your Excellencies and the Great Council of State, the necessity, as well as the expediency, of giving me such full and authentic information of all that can be discovered about these assailants of a foreign Legation, and those who have instigated them to attempt so desperate an enterprise, as shall satisfy my Government that you are dealing in good faith, and earnestly desire to do justice and afford all the satisfaction that can be demanded for an outrage offered in my person to the Sovereign I represent at the Court of the Tycoon. A list of forty men, I know, has been found on the person of one of the wounded prisoners; two of these are alive in your hands. Other traces and indications are not wanting to help inquiry of the most searching kind. Believe me, then, when I assure you, in all sincerity, that no vague declaration that these miscreants were mere loönins—outcasts and outlaws—Prince of Mito's men, &c., acting at their own instigation, will meet the requirements of the case. However lawless men may be, they do not rush upon the most perilous enterprises, such as the murder of a Gotiro, or the attack of a Legation surrounded by armed men, without an adequate object, and for the mere pleasure of receiving or giving death. What advantage could it be to wandering outcasts to murder all the members of a Legation? Such men may be the instruments, but could not be the originators, of such a deed. Men higher placed, and with political objects, could alone find their advantage, real or supposed, in the perpetration of an outrage which is a challenge and a defiance to one of the Great Powers of the West, and deprives the Government of Japan, and the Tycoon himself, of all respect and authority in the eyes of Sovereigns with whom he has entered into Treaty, unless these are vindicated by the measures taken to afford reparation, to punish all concerned in a murderous attack which was an insult to the flag so grievous that many lesser causes have brought all the calamities of war on a country. This, accompanied by some better guarantee of security for the future than has hitherto existed, as the recent event, with all the antecedent assassinations too plainly proves, can alone re-establish relations of mutual confidence and respect.

I shall await your Excellencies' answer, to decide what my future course must be. By the nature and extent of the information you afford me as to all the parties concerned in this attack on the Legation, I shall be mainly guided as to the action to be taken for the honour of the flag which has been so grossly outraged, and the maintenance of our Treaty rights and immunities.

With respect and consideration,

(Signed) RUTHERFORD ALCOCK.

Mr. Alcock to Lord J. Russell.—(Received October 3.)

(Extract.)

Yeddo, July 10, 1861.

IN reporting the termination of my journey through the interior from Nagasaki, I stated my intention of submitting some remarks on what I had observed of interest in the course of my travels. These I must limit to general conclusions bearing upon the resources of the country, in reference to foreign trade more especially; the facilities for its development which Hiogo and Osaka promise; and the relations which appear to exist between the ruling classes and the mass of the population, rural and urban. Any attempt to furnish the detail of the observations from day to day, on which these and many other conclusions of a subsidiary nature are founded, would far exceed the limits of a readable despatch.

In regard to natural resources, Japan is a country which appears to be blessed, in its length and breadth, with great fertility of soil, and a finer climate than almost any other that is known. Even in the Island of Kiusiu, which it took us seven days to traverse, and in the southern end of Nipon, where all the hills are either sandstone or sand, and the valleys and plains seem little else, and where, though innumerable rivers run into the sea, not one is navigable, all being choked up with the mass of sand and gravel washed down, yet still, despite such seemingly untoward conditions, abundant crops of corn and rice were on the ground, while the hills were richly clothed with verdure and a great variety of timber, the whole family of *coniferæ*, the camphor and vegetable-wax trees, being the most common.

This result may, I think, be sufficiently accounted for by the constant alternation of hill and valley, the former attracting moisture and ever supplying the means of irrigation, which the most patient of painstaking field-labourers are indefatigable in turning to the utmost account. Their labours are obviously further aided by liquid manure, which has for centuries been plentifully supplied to correct any original poverty in the land.

Notwithstanding these certain indications of abundance in the yield of the soil, in rice and bearded wheat chiefly, in beans, peas, and sweet potatoes, with here and there patches of Indian corn, tobacco, tea plants, and poppies, and in certain districts cotton, the general aspect of the endless succession of villages and towns we passed through, was that of poverty among the people, in harsh contrast to the richness and fertility of the country. Few signs of absolute destitution met the eye, but masses of population with nothing evidently beyond the barest necessities of animal life, a roof covering the area of a few mats, on which groups of eight, ten, and more, men, women, and children, crowded in the doorway as we passed, must all be huddled together more like cattle than human beings at night, and with just as little provision for luxury or decency. Some few of the larger towns had a better aspect and a superior style of house in the principal thoroughfares, but only where there were signs of trade. The inhabitants of the purely agricultural districts and towns were all poverty-stricken.

After reaching Hiogo, situated on the main island (the England of the group forming the Empire), there was a marked improvement. The houses and villages showed less poverty, and there was more life and animation about the country people. But then we only saw the population bordering on the main road leading to the capital, and the great trunk-line of all traffic and commerce. When about three days' journey from Fusi-yama, the dark rich soil of the volcanic regions first appeared. All before that was principally sand. And although we passed in this second part of the journey wide and rapid rivers, many of which we had to be ferried over in boats, and across others carried on platforms, by men fording, none were navigable. The hills are so close to the sea-shore that the detritus of sand and gravel brought down seems to shoal and choke them all up. The river on which Osaka is situated alone forms some exception, for although exceedingly shallow, boats can navigate it for a few miles, as will be seen by the inclosed note of the hydrographic observations furnished me by Captain Craigie, R.N., whom I took on to Osaka with me for that purpose.

From such general features as these I drew the conclusion that although the fertility of the soil is great, and turned to the best account by a plentiful supply of labour of the cheapest kind, yet that little superfluity is produced, or, if there be any, it is absorbed almost entirely by the Daimios and retainers, who are the non-productive classes, and proprietors, I believe, of nine-tenths of the soil. Of peasant or other landed proprietors, not of the Daimio class, there seem to be few, if any, except under altogether exceptional circumstances. What proportion of the produce of the soil goes to the landlord for rent

I have not very satisfactorily ascertained: I am told one-fifth only, in kind or money, but I should have guessed a much larger amount. Judging from the manifest poverty of the frugal labourer it must be all, save the barest pittance necessary to support life by supplying rice and clothing for him and his family.

We passed a coal-mine of the Prince of Fizen's on the third day from our departure, near Takiwo, in the Island of Kinsin. It was situated not a hundred yards off the main road, a broad cross-road leading to it. This had been closed by a newly-constructed bamboo-fence, behind which two soldiers or retainers had been placed. Desiring to see what the mine and its produce were like, and conceiving this obstruction an attempt to reduce our right of travelling to the high road, contrary to the spirit and intention of the Treaty, I swung myself round the edge of the fence, and, gaining the road on the other side, proceeded towards the mouth of the pit, amidst the vociferation of all the officials and local guards, who made desperate efforts to stop me, and only stopped short themselves or actual violence. The Tycoon's officers attached to us for the journey, when remonstrated with afterwards, made very lame excuses, and threw the blame on the Prince's people, with excuses as to their ignorance, &c. The same difficulty occurred later in the day, when I mounted the banks of a great reservoir for irrigation situated close to the road. I mention these incidents only to show to what the right of travel must long be limited in Japan; so long, at least, as there are more than twenty Princes who do not hold their fiefs from the Tycoon, but as confederates and allies of the founder of the Dynasty, Taiko-Sama; claiming something very like a total independence, and denying his right to pass any one through their territories off the "tocaïdo" (or main road) leading to and from Imperial ports or districts. The pit only presented a very narrow opening to a horizontal adit or gallery into a hill. Some of the coal, which was bituminous, looked well, but a large quantity, already collected, was all exposed to the air, and would necessarily rapidly deteriorate when wet. Some two or three days further on, we came upon other coal-heaps, by the banks of a river which seemed to admit flat-bottomed boats. The difficulty experienced in getting abundant supplies at Nagasaki, and of better quality, is explained on the spot, by the alleged non-payment of the cost by the Tycoon's officers, who insist on its being delivered to them for sale. They are, in fact, the first purchasers, and retail it for their own profit to the foreigner. A demand has recently been made, I learned, on the part of the Prince, to be his own salesman, and to send his own agent to Nagasaki for that purpose. A great innovation this, to which the Government of the Tycoon is scarcely likely to accede, seeing how great a source of profit it is to the official middle-men in authority at the port, and a refusal may probably lead to a stoppage of all further supplies; unless the end should be, as is often the case in Japan in like circumstances, some sort of compromise for the payment of a portion of arrears, and assurances of fairer dealing in future.

I came upon no silk district, but a vast quantity of the vegetable wax and many camphor-trees were passed in Kinsin. Of the former, I heard that subsequent to the first demand by foreigners, 20,000 trees had been planted not far from Nagasaki, yet carefully concealed from foreigners; thus showing that some among the Japanese are quite ready to act upon the stimulus which demand creates, and see their own interest in providing for increased supply.

The approach to Hiogo is good and easy, the anchorage secure; the navigation to Osaka for cargo-boats short and easy also, not more than four or five miles from the Bay, though some fifteen from Hiogo, which is to Osaka what Kanagawa is to Yeddo. Only this last is a capital filled chiefly with Daimios and their retainers, dominant classes which consume much and produce nothing, and are decidedly hostile to all foreign commerce, as diminishing their own share and endangering its easy and secure appropriation; while Osaka is a great mercantile centre, situated on a plain, intersected by twenty branches of a river, and spanned by innumerable bridges, some of them 300 paces across; with this great advantage, above all others, over Yeddo, that, although an Imperial city, it is comparatively free from the two-sworded generation of locusts and obstructives. There are a large number of Daimios' residences occupying more than a league of the river banks, but I fancy these are seldom occupied, or only very temporarily, by their owners. Immense activity reigns everywhere; and although it was difficult to make much way in finding out the true prices with yaconins whose business it was to mislead us and fill their own pockets, I saw enough to satisfy myself that if anything like free interchange could once be established, this would supply a market more than equal in importance to all the other ports combined. How little my exploration was to their taste I had a double evidence in the arrival of Takimoto-no-kami, a Governor of Foreign Affairs deputed especially from the Government at Yeddo to expose to me all the dangers of my intended route; and,

secondly, by the attempt to shut up all the shops in Hiogo, keeping the people out of sight, with pretended anxiety for our safety; but having relinquished this, on vigorous remonstrance on my part, we saw sufficient evidence of a busy and prosperous port, with inner docks, and ship-building going on to a great extent, to justify those who do not wish foreign commerce, in their efforts to keep us away.

As to the feeling of the people towards foreigners, and the relations between the mass and the ruling classes (the only subject on which I will venture further to detain your Lordship by any observations), I saw much that was both suggestive and instructive. The sum of the whole is this:—

Of hostility or popular ill-feeling I saw nothing. There was a great deal of eager curiosity, not always perfectly free from noise or rudeness, yet the cases of the latter were quite the exception. We were stared at, whenever opportunity served, pretty much as a show of wild beasts would be, and perhaps with not much more feeling of a common origin and humanity; but the only instance in which any disposition was shown intentionally to molest or annoy us, was the morning after leaving Osaka by a road which no Europeans had ever travelled (in order to avoid Miaco, at the earnest and reiterated entreaty of the Government), and on this occasion boys and men shouted and hooted, and even followed us from village to village across the plain to carry on the annoyance; but I am much disposed to believe it was expressly provided for us by our officials, in revenge for our resisting their attempt to detain us another day unnecessarily, and starting without them, for it had never happened before, nor did it again. Generally speaking, the largest concourse of people seemed perfectly and easily kept under control. At Osaka, where many thousands always lined the streets, there was, of course, some pushing and crowding, and now and then an attendant police-officer would make a furious raid on the front ranks, dealing apparently desperate blows on the bare heads, but his only weapon was a paper fan, to the full as effective as those given by our police, with this great advantage, that the Japanese blows broke no bones, and did not even ruffle the temper of the recipients, who, on the contrary, took them all with the greatest good humour or indifference, and quite as matters of course.

Upon another occasion we observed our escort manœuvred to prevent our sleeping at Uieno (as originally arranged in the itinerary), a large town, and where there is a castle, or fortress, under pretence that the only houses of reception were under repair! We stopped for the night, accordingly, at a very small town (Saki) a league distant, and the next morning, on entering Uieno, found, to our surprise, the whole place hermetically sealed up. The main street, through which our road lay, was free, but all the streets opening into it were fenced across, and even curtained off, so as to prevent our seeing them or being seen, and not a living soul was allowed to appear.

Whether this was in token of profound respect, such as they show to the Tycoon, or deep displeasure at our intrusion, or, lastly, to guard against some possible danger of which notice had been received, we could never ascertain, but the second certainly appeared by far the most probable. It was, at all events, conclusive evidence of the absolute power exercised by the governing class over the population.

On the road from day to day we were constantly meeting Daimios and their train of followers, and beyond a little superciliousness or gest of ill-will had little to complain of. On one occasion M. de Wit and I riding abreast, and seeing a large train of followers, fell into single file and drew to one side of the road, so as to allow ample space to the cortège. As soon as the officer on foot heading the train perceived this, he assumed an insolent air, and imperiously waved to the followers to spread, so as to fill up the whole road and endanger our being pushed into the ditch, or as near as might be. Thus it ever is in the East, and nowhere more certainly than in Japan. They who show any willingness to yield, must be content to be pushed into the gutter and refused standing-room, and thankful if they are not trodden down. Whether these same overbearing gentry with two swords in their belt are as ready to fight on equal terms as they are to quarrel when they think they are the strongest, may admit of some doubt perhaps, if we may trust the evidence of their own countrymen. M. de Wit told me he was one day asking an old Japanese about the army and the people, and particularly what the latter would do if a foreign Power were to invade the country. "Oh run away!" he unhesitatingly exclaimed. "How! run away?" "Certainly we should; it is not our business to fight; that is for the two-sworded and the Daimios' soldiers." "Oh, then, they would fight I suppose, for you say they are in large numbers." The old man hesitated a moment: "Hem! yes. Well, you see that is not sure; they are like the newly-built fire-proof houses we have just been building here, they have not been tried yet."

And with this characteristic estimate of Japanese powers to support so much preten-

sion and bluster I must close this somewhat hurried glance at the interior of Japan and its people. The journey was long and fatiguing; and I should be very loth to undertake it a second time; but I think good service has been done both in exercising a very important Treaty right and in the information gained, which could only be procured by personal observation. Seven or eight leagues a day is but a slow rate of progression, and under a Japanese sun or drenching rain rather trying; but had I been able to push on at a quicker rate, there would have been less leisure for observation. I was very glad to have accomplished it, and to re-enter the Legation, little anticipating the welcome awaiting me.

It is just possible the determination to travel through the country may have helped to point me out more especially as the fittest object of attack, both personally and as the Representative of a Great Power not likely to sit tamely down under such an injury. The compliment, it is true, was rather costly, whether paid to me individually or my country, or, as I believe, to both; and one can only hope it will not be repeated.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Memorandum of Hydrographic Observations of the Port of Hiogo and Osaka River.

Note furnished by Captain Craigie.

AT 6 P.M. embarked at about half-a-mile from the temple in Osaka, where we had been living for the last two days, and proceeded down the river on my return to the ship. This part of the river is clear of bridges, and for the first mile and a-half sea-going junks were moored two and three deep on both banks, as close as they could lie, leaving a clear passage in the centre stream, which is about 120 yards wide. I, of course, had no means of sounding, but the junks I saw lying in the river must have drawn at least eleven feet water. The river meets the sea at about five miles distance from the city, and has no difficult turns, the current running, at the time we went down, about one and a-half knots. Saw no indications of a bar, although probably one exists. This I imagine to be the entrance having the deepest water, although no doubt, from the flatness of the surrounding country, there are many other smaller ones.

Note by Mr. Watts.

Hiogo and Corvee Bays are situated in the northern part of the Idzu-minada, or Gulf of Osaka, and give good shelter to vessels from all winds, excepting from between north-east and south, and then, as there is only a stretch of about twenty-five miles to the opposite coast, I imagine a very heavy sea cannot set into the bays.

The bottom is stiff mud, and good holding ground. It was with great difficulty the "Ringdove" could weigh her anchor. There is a general depth of about five fathoms all over them, with four fathoms close to the beach, and no dangers are known to exist.

Two fresh-water streams empty themselves into Hiogo Bay, and the same number into Corvee Bay. One, with an obelisk near the northern side, looks like a harbour (but the Japanese officials were so suspicious of our proceedings, and watched us so narrowly, that it was only surreptitiously that the sketch was made), and we could not examine it. A range of mountains, from 800 to 2,000 feet high, runs parallel with the coast; and about two miles from it they rise with a gentle slope from the shore to within a quarter of a mile of their summit, and then abruptly.

The land appears to be highly cultivated, but very few vegetables could be procured from the inhabitants, owing to orders, we suppose, from the officials. The sea is also swarming with fish, but very few could be obtained for the same reason.

Her Majesty's ship "Ringdove" anchored in five fathoms, with Hiogo Point bearing south 2° east, Neuter Point north 1° east, and Tuckatoy Peak (situated to the westward of the town, and about 1,000 feet high), north 73° west. The latitude of Neuter Point is about 34° 42' north, and the longitude about 137° 7' east. Did not remain long enough

to ascertain the time of high water at the full and change, but during our stay the tides were very irregular, with a rise and fall of about five feet.

On approaching these bays from the westward, care must be taken to avoid a sand-spit, which extends about a mile from the shore, on which a large fishing village is situated, and about eight miles from Hiogo Point, but as the soundings gradually decrease on approaching it, a slight attention to the lead, and by keeping about a mile and a-half from the beach, will keep vessels clear of it.

(Signed)

JAMES S. WATTS,

Master, H.M.S. "Ringdove."

No. 4.

Mr. Alcock to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 27.)

(Extract.)

Yeddo, July 25, 1861.

WE are near the end of the third week since the attack on the Legation, and I am glad to report that there has been no renewal of the attempt. Your Lordship will easily understand the anxieties inseparable from such a position, surrounded by hostile elements, and under the nominal protection only of a Government which has shown itself either treacherous or incapable, and repudiated all responsibility.

Amidst many evils attending such a state of things, one good has resulted, I think, in the precision with which our actual situation has been defined; more especially as regards the Legations in Yeddo. That life is insecure even within their gates, and that the Government is either unable or unwilling to afford efficient protection, this, at least, whatever else may be doubtful, has been put beyond all question.

Any debateable ground has thus been narrowed to a single point: Does the Government of Japan, however constituted in the hands of Tycoon and Daimios, lack the will or the power to protect the flags of Treaty Powers from insult, and their Representatives and subjects generally from murder and violence?

The inclosed note, giving a summary of what passed between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and myself, at my first interview after the 5th, may possibly throw some new light on this question.

I delayed the interview until the 20th, in the hope that the Admiral's arrival would enable me to come to some decision as to my future course; and at the same time give more weight to any suggestion or representation I might see fit to make to the Japanese Government. But finding it inexpedient to defer any longer, I went, at some disadvantage, chiefly with a view of profiting by the recent demonstration of the inefficiency of their means of protection, to ascertain more distinctly in what light they regarded this marked failure, and their responsibility as a Government, both as regarded the past and the future. In this I had the satisfaction of perfectly succeeding. There was really no reticence on their part in asserting that they had no power of preventing such attacks as the last on the Legation, or assuring us against a renewal under more fatal conditions of success. They could guarantee none of the Representatives against these attempts at massacre and assassination; and all foreigners in Japan were liable, whether in their houses or in the public thoroughfares. In the present state of the country such things were inevitable, and must be so regarded.

They were ready, they said, to do what they could for our protection; but on inquiry it merely amounted to the adoption of measures for making the condition of all foreigners, Ministers and merchants, more and more that of prisoners in close custody, with a still enduring sense of insecurity in the midst of their jailors. As to their responsibility, it was simply repudiated; not earnestly or vehemently, as a thing to be questioned or defended, but with the unconcern of men perfectly assured of their position. They seemed to adopt the argument that no Government could control public opinion; they could make Treaties, but could not enforce them on an unwilling nation. To demand full effect to be given to all the stipulations of the Treaty, therefore, under existing circumstances, was simply to demand an impossibility, for the non-performance of which no one could be held responsible. So in like manner was security for life unattainable; it could not be guaranteed, nor could any Government be held responsible for the isolated acts of individuals, or outrages perpetrated by bands of their lawless subjects.

I have but one observation to offer on this line of argument. When a Government or Potentate in the East repudiates all responsibility for assassinations or outrages committed within their territories, and by their own people, upon foreigners, it is time

these all looked to their safety. A national flag ceases to be any protection; and if Diplomatic Agents are to be maintained under such conditions, the security of their lives must be entirely dependent on the means adopted by their own Governments for their defence.

I have thought it right, under the circumstances, to communicate the summary giving the results of my conference with the Ministers to my colleagues, as equally affecting their position.

In this circular to the foreign Representatives, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, your Lordship will find a brief summary of the conclusions to which, in my opinion, the statements and demeanour of the Ministers clearly tend, if these be taken in connection with passing events, and a letter of the Tycoon addressed to Her Majesty, which was received in my absence.*

I will only further add, in reference to the position of the Legations in Yeddo at the present moment, and to my own more particularly, that it is of necessity attended with some risk, though to what extent is uncertain. Various rumours reach me from day to day, some of which are eventually verified, and others contradicted; but all, more or less, like straws flung on a troubled stream, show the action of under-currents and eddies, and speak plainly of dangerous elements in a state of activity, which bode no good to the foreigner and even bear a threatening aspect in regard to Japanese of rank and station.

I take this opportunity also of inclosing copies of correspondence with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the measures taken for the arrest of the offenders, and our future security.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Note giving a Summary Account of a Conference with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, on the 20th July, 1861, having special reference to the late Attack on the British Legation.

THE Conference took place, as usual, by previous appointment, at the house of Ando Tsusimano Kami, the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs, at which was present the First Minister, Koodzi Yamatono Kami, President of the First Council of State, or Gorogio; Sakai Oukionoské, Member of the Second Council, and the several Governors of Foreign Affairs.

Respecting the measures taken to secure the arrest of the survivors of the assailants, to ascertain their number, and the motive for the attack, the following information was given:—

Three were killed within the gates of the Legation, and one also who was wounded they seized on the spot. Three more were tracked, the next morning, to Sinagawa; two were found to have committed suicide by the “hara-kiru,” the third had only wounded himself, and was seized. The two prisoners were now in safe custody, undergoing surgical treatment for the cure of their wounds, previous to strict examination. When their depositions were taken, copy should be forwarded. The whole band was ascertained to have been fourteen in number. Lists of the names were found on the wounded prisoners, and the Ministers are satisfied those lists correctly represent the number and names of those banded together for the attack. The other seven have been traced further, and every effort was being made to insure their apprehension. By letter the Minister had previously told me this, expressing a hope that they might ultimately succeed; but alleging that, even in the parallel case of the Gotiro’s murder, although the offenders were well known, the Government had hitherto only succeeded in arresting one.

As to the motives for the attack, the Ministers renewed an assurance already given, of their belief that these men had no other motives than those set forth in the document found on them, and that they were all men of low degree, without instigators or abettors of a higher rank. They added, that there was a strong public feeling against all foreign trade and relations, mainly due to the increased dearness of everything since the ports were opened, but also in part to a deeply-rooted love for the old customs and traditional policy of exclusion, and these men belonged to a desperate class of outlaws, willing to make themselves the exponents and instruments of such national feeling; men who took a glory in sacrificing their own lives in such an enterprise. They attacked the British Legation, hoping not only to distinguish themselves by slaying the British Minister and all his suite, at the same time that they gratified their hatred of the foreigner, but to cause a rupture of foreign relations, and so return to the old state of isolation.

* Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

As regarded the existence of such public opinion, and feeling of animosity, and the means by which the Government could arrive at any reliable knowledge of it in a country where there was no public Press, no Parliament, or public meetings of the people, the Ministers said they found no difficulty, by means of secret emissaries sent through the country to collect information, in ascertaining correctly what the public opinion was at any time. They further related the evidence extracted from a suspected person lately arrested, entirely confirmatory of the views already explained, and very intelligibly stated in the document found on the killed and wounded loönins.

As regarded the future, and the degree of security to be counted upon for the Legations, and the lives of foreigners generally, both in Yeddo and at the ports, the Ministers replied, apparently without any hesitation, that seeing the state of public feeling they could not undertake to say such an attempt as had been made on the 5th instant would not be renewed. They themselves were menaced with attack from the same motives of hostility to all connected with foreign relations. The Gotiro last year had been murdered partly from the same motives, though they admitted that these had been mixed up with a feud between him and Prince Mito on other grounds. All they could undertake would be to increase the means of defence, and enjoin greater vigilance; while at the same time they urged as the most certain means of allaying the public excitement and hostility, from whence the danger arose, the speedy agreement to defer the opening of the ports. They also urged the removal of the English guards, since in the event of another attack there might, in the confusion and darkness, be danger of mistakes, and some of the Japanese guards might themselves get shot: whereas if a guard of yaconins were allowed to live inside the house, as they proposed, our safety would be provided for against any second surprise from without.

In reply to further questions as to warnings given to Her Majesty's Consul at Kanagawa of danger from a like attack, the Ministers replied they had no certain information; but from the number of loönins about, and the state of public feeling, they feared such danger did actually exist.

After this clear declaration on the part of the Ministers that they could give no guarantee against further attacks on the Legation, or on the lives of foreigners, I could not avoid the expression of some surprise that they should propose, and even continue to urge, the withdrawal of the British guard. I reminded them that five months ago I and three other Representatives had retired from Yeddo under menace of that which had since actually taken place—an attack on one or more of the Legations. That I and M. de Bellecourt had returned at the express invitation of the Tycoon and Council of State, and under solemn assurances of all needful measures being taken for our security. Trusting to this assurance, we had confided in the protection of the Japanese Government, and trusted to them exclusively. The result had been an attack, which only providentially failed of entire success; for the numerous guard surrounding the Legation, and so often declared to be sufficient, had been surprised, the porters at the gates cut down, the Legation broken into with the utmost violence at three points, and the whole place left in possession of a band of armed ruffians for more than ten minutes, while searching for myself and the other inmates, and two of whom they met and wounded: all this before a single yaconin or officer of any description came to our rescue. The Ministers said, "The night was dark, and the guards had been surprised;" but what satisfaction would such an answer or explanation be to the British Government, whose Representative was confided to their safe-keeping, if every member of the Legation had been slain, as might well have been in the long interval before the guards were thoroughly roused to a sense of the danger? The same thing might occur again. Another night might be equally dark, and another surprise equally successful. Could they expect me to consent to run this risk again, or feel any confidence in their means of protection? They were also reminded that I did not stand alone in this want of confidence. M. de Wit had refused to come to Yeddo at all, after the attack on the British Legation, until he had referred for instructions. M. de Bellecourt did not feel justified in coming without a permanent guard of his countrymen. No sufficient grounds for confidence existed to justify me, after my past experience, in dispensing with an English guard. They had proposed to me to admit a corps of yaconins or Daimios' guards inside the house. But this would be to turn the Legation into a Japanese barrack, and consign myself to close custody, to be always kept in sight by Japanese officials in a way altogether insupportable and unbecoming the position, independence, and freedom due to Her Majesty's Representative. Finally, I had no confidence in the efficiency of the means, were they less objectionable. As to our future security, and the means of protection contemplated by the Japanese Government, little more was said. I then referred to the letter of the Tycoon addressed to the Queen, which had been sent to the Legation in my absence, and a communication from the Ministers setting forth

at great length the reasons for urging upon my Government the deferred opening of the ports until 1868, stating that I had some observations to make upon this proposition and their letter, in connection with the present aspect of affairs.

Both the letter of the Tycoon, and that of the Ministers,* I observed, began by a statement that the stipulations of the Treaty "had for the most part been carried into effect," and that in reference to present public opinion, and its attendant dangers or difficulties, these might be confidently anticipated to disappear with time, if the national spirit were appeased by the asked-for delay in opening Yeddo and more ports, and while waiting for the deferred time to arrive, the promise itself would speedily produce a satisfactory result; but if, on the contrary, this were refused, then evil not to be averted would follow.

I observed that as these letters were about to be sent on to England with the last foul attempt to murder all the inmates of the British Legation for a commentary, and the present declaration of the Ministers that they could give no guarantee against similar attacks, and it would be essential that I should inform my Government how far I agreed in the correctness of the statements made by the Ministers as to the past execution given to the Treaty, or could look forward with the same hopeful feeling to the future if their proposals were acquiesced in—I thought it best to tell them frankly, and at once, how far I could or could not agree with them.

In the first place, I observed, it was impossible for me to say that, for the most part, the stipulations of the Treaty had been carried into effect; for I knew, on the contrary, that nearly all the more important conditions had been either nullified or suspended in their action, by restrictions, interferences, and obstructions of every kind, experienced at the hands of the Japanese authorities and subordinate officials—all these constituted so many barriers against any freedom of intercourse or trade with the Japanese, wholly contrary to both the letter and spirit of the Treaty; that although these continually increasing restrictions and barriers were ostensibly interposed for our protection, and said to be caused by the necessity of guarding us against hostile public feeling, and to be received, therefore, as proofs of good faith and a friendly disposition in the Japanese Government, there could be but one opinion as to the result, whatever the object or the motive. While these restrictions on trade and intercourse destroyed the trade, they did not protect the lives of foreigners. They further destroyed all hope of gradual improvement, only to be looked for by the removal of prejudices, the development of mutual interests, and the growth of increased trust and confidence founded on better acquaintance.

Nothing could well be more unsatisfactory, therefore, than the review of the past; while our present position was one of great insecurity. Life, even within the Legations, was endangered, and an almost total obstruction of trade existed, the latter clearly due to acts of Japanese officials, and, it was to be assumed, of the Government under whom they served.

If I looked from the past and the present to the future, and the promise held forth of ameliorations, what could I tell my Government these consisted of? More restrictions, more obstacles to freedom of trade and social intercourse; more guards and spies, more gates and barriers about Legations and Consulates and places of business; more narrowing of boundaries;—and all this without any corresponding additional security, to be crowned with the deferred opening of ports for several years; on no better hope than the very vague and uncertain one, of an expected improvement in the spirit of the people, said to be inveterately opposed to all foreign relations. This was what the Ministers had to propose, and I felt bound to tell them, that, in my opinion, the ameliorations they contemplated were only so many aggravations of existing evils, which were, in truth, violations of Treaty rights; and that I, at least, could not see the slightest foundation for the hope held out of a better state of things existing in 1868 than in 1862 or 1863 under such a régime. But there was a promise and a menace both implied in the letter of the Ministers: a promise of immediate satisfactory result and future improvement, if the concession demanded were made; and a foreboding of evil result not to be averted, if the stipulations of Treaties should be insisted upon. I thought this a very grave state of affairs; and taken in connection with our present position of avowed insecurity, and the many serious questions involved in the proposition formally to suspend the execution of the Treaties in the only remaining clauses that had not already been rendered in a great degree inoperative, I should, in all probability, if unable to leave myself for England, send Mr. Oliphant, the Secretary of Legation, in person, as the bearer of the letter of the Tycoon for the Queen, and a copy of the despatch of the Foreign Ministers on the subject, in order that he might, with full knowledge of my views, and the actual situation from his personal observation on the spot, give to my Government more detailed and ample

* Inclosures 1 and 2 in No. 9.

information than I could convey by writing alone, to enable them to come to some conclusion at once as to the course to be followed, and send me out instructions without delay.

To these observations, in which I endeavoured to sum up and present, in one view, the leading facts which bear upon our present position and future prospects in Japan, the Ministers replied only in general terms. They admitted the insecurity referred to existed, adding that it was a subject of regret to the Government, but it arose from causes they could not control, namely, the general feeling in the nation. That they themselves were exposed to like danger from the same causes, and they believed the only course which promised greater security or improved relations, was to allay this excitement or public feeling, by deferring the opening of other places, and so calming their fears, lest a further extension of trade might take place to the ruin of the nation.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Mr. Alcock to Messrs. De Bellecourt, Harris, and De Wit.

(Extract.)

Yeddo, July 23, 1861.

REFERRING back to my official letter of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I had an interview with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the 20th instant, with the special object of ascertaining what steps had been taken for the apprehension of the men engaged in the attack on the British Legation in the night of the 5th instant; what information had been obtained as to their numbers, organization, and motives; and, lastly, what assurance the Government could give of greater security for the future, and exemption from similar attacks on the Legations.

As I consider the attack on the British Legation, and the attempt at a general massacre of its inmates, was merely the execution of an often repeated menace addressed to the foreign Representatives indiscriminately, and affecting the security of all alike, I hasten to send you, for perusal, a short summary of the principal points under discussion, and the answers given by the Ministers to the questions and observations I addressed to them. If you should desire a copy, I shall have much pleasure in placing one at your disposal.

The final results will, I think, be as clear to my colleagues as to myself. Our present position is one of avowed insecurity. Neither the lives of foreign Representatives in the capital, nor of their countrymen at the ports, are under the safeguard of any effective protection from the Government of the country. They treat the attack on one of the Legations, and the all but successful attempt to massacre the inmates, as one of those things for which there is neither remedy nor redress, as a contingency which may happen to any one in Japan, and to be regarded, therefore, very much as a matter of course. The Regent was murdered in the streets surrounded by his guards, and so may we be.

They could not prevent, neither have they succeeded in arresting the perpetrators of the crime in his case, where they had every interest, and cannot, therefore, be held responsible for better success when others are concerned. The state of public feeling and opinion is inimical to us, to all foreign trade and relations; partly from a love for old customs and traditions, partly from a general belief that the increased dearness in every article of Japanese consumption is exclusively due to the demands made by foreign trade on the limited productions of the country; and that such trade, therefore, is an unmitigated evil, to be got rid of by any means or at any cost.

As a corollary to these facts, assumed or real, they draw the conclusion that, beyond taking certain demonstrably ineffective measures to preserve foreigners from outrage and murder, nothing more can be immediately effected or expected of the Government; and the sole hope of future improvement rests on allaying this general excitement of national feeling by preventing the further extension of trade, and notably by deferring the opening of more places. Of course this principally is insisted upon because as regards those ports already open, it rests with the Japanese Government to restrict the trade as much as they see fit; and the obstructions and limitations of every kind now existing, go far to render all foreign trade unprofitable, and threaten soon to render it impossible.

With no present security, and no promise of improvement in the future, except at the price of a tacit acquiescence in restrictions the most onerous that can be devised on all freedom of trade, of social intercourse, and of individual action, and the formal abandonment of an important Treaty right in the opening of new ports, this, in *résumé*, is the position offered us, the final result of the Ministers' deliberations with the Council, and

the policy to which they propose to adhere, as the only one suitable to present circumstances. How far the Western Powers, to each of whom the Tycoon has addressed a letter in accordance with this policy, will be disposed to accept such a programme of present and future relations with Japan, remains to be seen. No doubt they will be much influenced by the opinion they may form as to the amount of good faith exhibited by the Japanese ruling Powers.

If it be really believed that the Government of the Tycoon has to contend with a national feeling of hostility to foreign trade and relations, in no way to be referred to any action of the Government artificially to create such animus, but one which has arisen spontaneously, and is beyond their control, and that to oppose this would be to involve them in a revolution or internecine war, which is the ground taken by the Japanese Ministers, then, however disadvantageous and unprofitable the position occupied by foreign Powers, they may hesitate to follow any course of action likely to lead to consequences so disastrous to all parties.

But if, on the contrary, they should see reasons to conclude that this spirit of hostility has no real existence among the people, but only among the privileged classes who constitute the Government—the Daimios and their retainers, that from them solely proceed all attempts at intimidation, all danger and obstacles; if they should further believe that these, profiting adroitly by any temporary increase of prices, owing to a sudden demand for the foreign market, add to the mischief by stopping the free transport of rice from their several districts and territories, and disseminate alarming reports of the ultimate consequences of an extension of foreign trade; and finally, that to these same Daimios and ruling classes is to be traced a whole system of intimidation, backed by frequent acts of violence and assassination, all calculated to give effect to a policy of reaction for the ultimate exclusion of the foreigner; it cannot be doubted that any Government will hesitate, by unresisting acquiescence, to crown with success a policy of this Machiavellian stamp, founded on falsehood, and supported by assassination.

In any case the position offered to the Treaty Powers, equally devoid of present profit and future promise (promise, that is, with any reasonable chance of fulfilment), yet compromising in all that relates to national dignity, is one open to many and grave objections; and I look upon the interview, of which I now transmit you the details, as especially important at the present moment, taken in connection with the recent attempted massacre at the Legation, and the letter of the Tycoon, calling upon foreign Powers to relinquish their Treaty rights, because it leaves the political situation clearly exposed, and more accurately defined than it has ever been before.

And inasmuch as the Ministers are urgent as to the necessity for a prompt answer, that they may, without loss of time, allay the fermentation in the minds of the people, fraught with such danger to foreigners, and to the stability of existing relations, I believe the time has come when the Treaty Powers cannot defer taking all the circumstances into serious consideration, and coming to some decided conclusion as to the course of action best calculated to put an end to this unequal struggle, in which their Diplomatic Agents are engaged in a vain endeavour to maintain intact Treaty rights by diplomatic means; while the arms used against them are those of the bravo and assassin.

What line of conduct and course of general policy may eventually be best adapted to meet the exigencies of such a position, is a grave question, and full of difficulty, but one for the decision of Governments rather than Diplomatic Agents.

I shall feel it my duty, therefore, so to conduct affairs in the interim, in regard to British interests, as to leave the final decision, if possible, entirely in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, without committing them by anticipation to any specific course.

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

List of Assailants Killed and taken Prisoners.

TAKEN prisoner at Tozenjee—Sakaki Etzabro.

Killed at that place—Kimoora Ko-onoské, Furukawa Shiménoské, Kobori Torakichi.

Taken prisoner at Sinagawa, after attempting to commit suicide—Ishikawa Kinshiro.

Committed suicide at that place—Tamazaki Sinnoské, Nakamoora Teiské.

The rest have fled, and are now being strictly searched for.

Inclosure 4 in No. 4.

List of Killed and Wounded in the Attack on the Legation on the night of the 5th July.

EBATA KICHIHE, body-guard, killed; Nakao Gutaro, body-guard, severely wounded; Onooki Maskichi, body-guard, slightly wounded; Kauno Torakichi, body-guard, slightly wounded; Anno Twadsiro, body-guard, slightly wounded; Tooge Tetookichi, body-guard, slightly wounded; Imai Djendsiro, body-guard, slightly wounded; Hondzio Koonoske, body-guard, slightly wounded; Matsudaira Kumedziro, body-guard, slightly wounded.

Ooyebora Takinoske, subject of the Daimio Matsudaira Tokinoske, slightly wounded; Yokichi Toyotaro, subject of the Daimio Matsudaira Tokinoske, slightly wounded; Kawabe Sookedsooro, subject of the Daimio Matsudaira Tokinoske, severely wounded.

Tsi-en, priest of the Temple Sohoen, slightly wounded; Seibi, porter, severely wounded; Kumakichi, a betto, killed; Kurata Katsudziro, porter, severely wounded; Toyokichi, cook, severely wounded.

Tycoon's soldier and betto: 2 killed.

Tycoon's soldier, Daimio's soldier, two porters, and cook: 5 severely wounded.

Seven Tycoon's soldiers, two Daimio's soldiers, and a priest: 10 slightly wounded.

Total, 17 killed and wounded.

Nakayama Mondo, Fukadyu Gataro, Honda Koohichiro, Asé Katunoske, Awoyama Kakunoske, Nozé Gindzaburo, Ando Etsudziro, Tootui Kanske: these eight were not wounded, though they fought a great deal.

Inclosure 5 in No. 4.

Mr. Alcock to the Japanese Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

Yeddo, July 11, 1861.

ON the 7th instant I wrote officially to you on the subject of a midnight attack on the British Legation, which took place on the 5th. You sent to tell me it would require many days to answer, from its length and your imperfect means of translation (after three years of preparation); and in the meantime, without any communication or notice, last night a large portion of the Japanese guards were suddenly withdrawn. This has not only been done without deigning to acquaint me, but without a word of information as to the measures you are actually taking, if any, to prevent a renewal of the foul attempt to assassinate a British Minister at his post in the Tycoon's capital.

I write to you now, therefore, to ask this and some other necessary questions; and my letter shall not be long, but it must be plain. If, in consequence of brevity, what I have to say should seem harshly worded or abrupt, you will see that the affair is pressing, and immediate action is of such urgent necessity that without it, while you are deliberating, the worst calamity that could well befall this country may come upon it like a thief in the night; for it is the Tycoon, the Government, and the people of Japan, that are to be congratulated, rather than myself, that this most foul attempt to murder Her Majesty's Representative, and all those attached to him within the walls of the Legation, has failed. Signal retribution must have inevitably followed, and will certainly follow still, if these nefarious designs are renewed.

For the sake of those who govern Japan, and that of the whole nation, I wish to avert this; and to that end require your Excellencies, without delay, to answer categorically and truly the following queries:—

1. The guard you placed for my protection having allowed itself to be surprised, and the Legation to be broken into at three different points, and, so far as they were concerned, I and every one there might have been murdered; I have to ask if any inquiry has been made into the circumstances, or any one been held responsible for such fatal and culpable want of vigilance?

2. The band of assassins who perpetrated this outrage, if allowed to escape quick and condign punishment, will be encouraged to further crime by impunity. I ask, therefore, if they have all been traced and seized yet, or, if not, what steps have been taken to that end?

3. A list of forty conspirators was found on the persons of one of the prisoners: I demand a copy, as also a view of the original document, and of any depositions made by the two wounded men who were seized among those who attempted my life.

4. Finally, I ask what steps the Government of the Tycoon has already taken to

render impossible another surprise, or the success of a similar attempt; and what guarantee they can give of security in future to the Representatives of foreign Powers?

I can only trust your Excellencies, in consultation with the Gorogio and Great Council of State, may duly appreciate the momentous consequences which may follow the events now passing, and give a full, prompt, and satisfactory reply to all my questions. I still further hope that you are prepared to prove, to the satisfaction of my Government, that the instigators and the instruments alike of such an outrage on the flag of Great Britain are not allowed to escape the punishment due to their crimes, and that full reparation will be promptly afforded. The credit of Japan is concerned in this. The floors and walls of the Legation are yet stained with the blood of its inmates, shed by Japanese assassins, and will remain so, with a still fouler stain on the honour of Japan and its Government, until it is washed out by the most ample justice being done upon all concerned in such a crime, and better guarantees of security are offered for the future.

With respect and consideration.

(Signed)

RUTHERFORD ALCOCK.

Inclosure 6 in No. 4.

The Japanese Ministers for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Alcock.

(Translation.)

WE acknowledge to have received your Excellency's letter dated the 7th July.

Your Excellency wrote to us regarding the secret attack made on your Legation by a number of miscreants in the night of the 5th July.

And although all the officers placed for your protection, and the guards, immediately fought on that night courageously, so that they yielded themselves to the danger of being mortally wounded, your Excellency asserts that it is altogether owing to the mercy of Heaven that your life and the lives of your subordinate officers were released from all danger, and that the secret attack was in the first instance altogether unknown to the officers for your protection when the miscreants assailed your Legation, which assertion does not seem to be without foundation.

As this, however, was a matter already of no small concern to us, we proposed to you in the beginning, when officers for protection were appointed, our wish that they should be stationed not only in the environs of the Legation, but even in the interior.

But your Excellency was altogether dissatisfied with it; so we left it to your will: hence the danger which has just happened.

Meanwhile we always gave them stringent orders to be vigilant in guarding against any accident. We therefore wish you to accept our proposal of placing officers for protection inside your Legation in future.

In consequence of your friendly feelings, you ordered up the British man-of-war from Kanagawa, and added some soldiers from the ship to assist our officers.

But even in fighting with sword and lance at close quarters, one cannot be certain that no mistakes will be made, should one person not be perfectly acquainted with another. Fire-arms again, are more suitable for fighting at a distance, and their operation is very effectual. In the event, therefore, of anything occurring, your soldiers, on account of their ignorance of the language, will not be able to make any distinction between miscreants and officers; and it will be uncertain what mischief might arise therefrom. The arrangements made for protection will thus be disappointed, for which we are not a little concerned. We therefore wish you to send back these soldiers.

And although your Excellency suggested that the last attack was not made spontaneously on the part of the assailants, but that there was a secret director of it; yet, as we have always communicated to you, it was known that in the early period of the opening of the ports there were, among the persons of rank, some who disapproved of the conclusion of the Treaties with foreign Powers. But owing to the arrangements made from time to time by the Government, there is now no one of that kind.

The occurrence is only ascribable to the acts of persons of low standing, who, from obstinate adhesion to the old custom of excluding foreign Powers, persist in their feelings of partiality. The alteration in their nature will therefore be difficult, without allowing a long lapse of months and years. This has hitherto been communicated to you at the interviews, and you will already have understood it.

There are still matters we wish further to communicate to you, but they cannot be so speedily mentioned here in full, as it will require time to translate, especially as your Excellency appears to be in great haste to receive our answer. So we have given here (only) a general reply, and shall afterwards enter into further particulars.

As, however, the letter cannot so amply inform you of the circumstances of affairs, we wish in a short time to communicate them clearly to you at an interview, which we have to propose with respect and consideration.

5th day, 6th month, 1st year of Boon-kew (July 13, 1861).

(Signed)

KOODZI YAMATONOKAMI.
ANDO TSOOSIMANOKAMI.

Inclosure 7 in No. 4.

Mr. Alcock to the Japanese Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

Yeddo, July 14, 1861.

IN your letter of yesterday your Excellencies expressed a wish to have an interview with me on the 15th or 16th instant; but I am hourly expecting the arrival of Admiral Sir James Hope, Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces in the East, who, in consequence of the menaces and intimidation to which the foreign Representatives were exposed in the beginning of last January, and the assassination which was perpetrated on the Secretary of the United States' Legation on the 15th of that month, has received Her Majesty the Queen's commands to visit me in Yeddo with a portion of the squadron under him. I shall postpone fixing upon a day for an interview, therefore, until he has arrived, as I shall necessarily have to present him to you, and to confer with you after seeing him.

With respect and consideration,

(Signed)

RUTHERFORD ALCOCK.

No. 5.

Mr. Alcock to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 27.)

(Extract.)

Yeddo, July 26, 1861.

IN my despatch of the 25th instant I made reference to several rumours in circulation among the Japanese as to the assailants on the attack on the Legation, and their motives; and, bearing on this part of the subject, I inclosed copies of a further correspondence with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Attached to their reply of the 13th July to my second communication, there was a translation of a paper found on one of the band who was wounded and made prisoner. This we saw taken from his person, and it is, indeed, stained with his blood. Exactly similar papers were found on the body of another, who was killed. To this document, so important in many respects, I wish now to draw your Lordship's attention, from the light it seems capable of throwing on our actual condition and future prospects. This will be more apparent if it be considered in connection with the reports circulating among the people, some in particular, as to the hand from whence the blow really came, and the more immediate motives for its being struck at the time it was, instead of at any other. It was not until yesterday, when I succeeded in getting three separate and independent translations from natives unknown to each other, and who could have had no previous means of communication on the subject, in order to check the accuracy of the official translation forwarded by the Ministers, that the full significance of this bond of conspiracy appeared. Indeed, before such test of the true meaning of the phrases, written in a sort of mountain patois, as all the readers report, and not intelligible to many educated Japanese, I did not venture to draw any conclusions from it.

I now inclose the four translations for more ready reference, namely, the one official, and three obtained from independent sources.

If these be compared, the same leading idea will be found in all, but with some very significant modifications, as well as additional grounds or motives of action, in the non-official interpretations, which appear to have been garbled in the translation sent from the Ministers; and it was because I feared this that I insisted upon the production of both the originals taken from the men on the premises. There is not that perfect identity of expression one could have desired, even in the three translations which were obtained from other hands, yet on careful collation the same thought or idea appears sufficiently plain in all to leave no doubt of the true sense.

In the official copy, the writer begins by declaring himself to be a man of low degree (twice repeated in the sequel), moved by the desire to do a great deed in honour of the Sovereign, and to expel the foreigner, as it is intolerable to stand by and see the Sacred Empire violated by the barbarians. To achieve honour for himself as a devoted patriot, making the Empire to sparkle in foreign regions by a great deed, while tranquillizing the Imperial mind, and benefiting the country by ridding it of the presence of the foreigner, whom he styles a barbarian, forms the second part of his declaration of motives for devoting himself to a task which may cost him his life—freely given for so great and glorious an object.

This, it will be seen, is entirely confirmatory of the view so often and constantly insisted upon by the Ministers, that there is a deep-rooted hatred of foreign relations in the popular mind, of which desperate men are ever to be found ready to make themselves the exponents, even at the sacrifice of their lives.

If we turn now to translation No. 2, the chief alteration to be remarked is the declaration that, out of all patience at seeing the Sacred Empire defiled by the foreigner, he had determined to undertake, not, as in the first, "a great deed to the honour of the Sovereign," but "to follow out my master's will." The expulsion of the foreigner, and thereby tranquillizing the minds of Mikado and Tycoon, follow in both, as the ulterior object; but in Nos. 3 and 4 some new elements and amplifications appear. There is in the beginning the same declaration of low rank, and consciousness of the disproportion between it and the great deed he aspires to perform for the benefit of his country, for its glorification in foreign lands, and for his own renown. But in treating of the expulsion of the foreigner, he takes it for granted that, if his plan can be executed (which consisted in the massacre of those within the British Legation), all foreigners would abandon Japan, or "the land of the Gods," as he styles it, and so procure him the favour of millions of his countrymen. And, in No. 3, it is the spirits of the dead Mikados and Taikoons, more especially of Taiko Sama, a great hero in Japanese history, and the founder of the present dynasty of Taikoons, and not the living representatives, he seeks to appease by the sacrifice he contemplates offering to their manes, in the lives of the foreigners. Moved by this thought, apparently, he concludes in all by declaring he is regardless of his life, and is ready to sacrifice it.

It is evident, if this document may be taken to be the spontaneous expression of the sentiments and motives of those who undertook the desperate enterprise of carrying the Legation by assault and slaying its inmates, though surrounded by ten times their number of Japanese guards, and known, as foreigners, to be well provided with fire-arms, and expert in their use; if, I repeat, this be a genuine document in that sense, and not one placed on their persons to be discovered in the event of failure, and give a preconceived version of their motives that should enforce a policy which those who govern the country have certainly at heart, namely, that of expelling the foreigner by ever-recurring trouble and danger, supposed to proceed from the uncontrollable and irradicable hatred of the people, then one cannot help concluding that if there be many in the country animated by sentiments of such mingled chivalry and fanaticism, and equally ready to sacrifice their lives for the destruction of the foreigner, and his final expulsion from the soil, the Treaty Powers would do well, without further loss of time, to make up their minds either to relinquish their hold and retire altogether, or declare a war of extermination against those who are sworn to the expulsion of all foreigners, and who adopt assassination as the readiest means.

If such a feeling of blind and unreasoning hostility really finds place in the popular mind to any great extent, all peaceable establishment of foreign relations would be simply an impossibility. I do not believe in the theory, however. The people—the millions who compose the nation and represent its industry, are animated by no such feeling. The privileged and governing classes, and all who by feudal ties are connected with them, are, as a body, hostile, and nourish the ideas and sentiments expressed in these documents; and clinging to the skirts of this privileged order of feudal chiefs, officers, and armed followers, are all the dissolute and desperate men of the kingdom, more or less protected by some of the highest Daimios, and subject to their influence and control—spadassins of our own old feudal days, ever ready to do the bidding of the powerful, and furnishing at all times the fittest instruments for any dark deed of State policy or personal vengeance, because, outlawed and disavowed by all, they can commit no one if they fail or are taken alive.

Of this class, doubtless, was the band who attacked the Legation; and from this class may be recruited at any moment any number of men for another raid against one or all of the Legations; or an attack in the streets, directed against the lives of the foreign Representatives.

This particular band, it has been tolerably well ascertained, found refuge and aid at

the house of a former doctor of the late Prince Mito, at whose house men affiliated together by a parity of desperate fortunes habitually met and plotted. This man is now understood to be in the hands of the police, and was possibly the "suspected person" to whom the Ministers referred, in my last interview, as giving evidence closely agreeing with the tenour of the document found on the person of the wounded man, as translated by them.

It has come to me from divers sources that the Prince of Tsusima hearing that a great Chief of the foreigners was at Nagasaki, on his way to Yeddo overland, immediately dispatched emissaries to slay this Chief on the road, and bring his head. Some say that a band of his people followed me with this object all the way to Yeddo, but did not overtake our party before I left Osaca, the last Imperial city, and they could not set upon me in the territories of any Daimio without involving their master in a feud with him. That I was finally to have been killed on the road between Kanagawa and Yeddo; but that my stopping a day and night there disarranged their plans. Certainly it struck me as somewhat strange that all along the road from the river to the Legation (the last half of the distance) the whole population was turned out in a way altogether unusual on a route where we are all so constantly seen, as if moved by some unwonted interest in our passage. And passing through the populous suburb of Sinagawa, of evil renown for tea-houses and disorderly characters, I saw ropes were placed across all the country roads leading into it, and all the tea-houses were closed. Still such crowds and precautions had so constantly attended me in my thirty days' journey that I paid little attention, conceiving that as my escort still accompanied me they had determined to conduct me to the end in the same manner as from the beginning. Whether they had any notice of a danger which thus was averted by their vigilance, aided perhaps by the large group of foreigners we formed, as all the members of the Legation had come to the river to meet me, we shall, probably, never know. The Government maintain silence, and will tell nothing.

But I think the more recent versions are also the more probable. These tell me that the Prince only sent a single emissary to follow me to Yeddo, and there to find the fit instruments of his purpose (never far to seek, it seems), and bring him my head, after the massacre of every one about me. A plot to attack the Legations, the Consulates, or Yokohama, together or successively, having long been a favourite plan among Mito's disbanded followers and other desperate characters, it required but a signal of any Chief to immediately get together the men necessary for an attack; and so it was suddenly resolved upon and carried into execution at the instigation of the Prince's emissary.

I am strongly disposed, after three weeks consumed in anxious inquiries as to the quarter from whence the blow had come and any future danger might be looked for, to believe that we have at last got at the real facts.

They would confirm the accuracy of all my former impressions, recorded from time to time, that all danger to the foreign Representatives, if not to foreigners generally, came from the enmity of Daimios and their armed followers; that, although there were loönins and desperate characters enough scattered about the country and in Yeddo to make life unsafe from a chance rencontre, a deliberate attack on the Legations would only come from a higher source; and that whenever that signal was given, the catastrophe would certainly come. By something little short of a miracle, our lives have been saved this time. It would scarcely be prudent to count upon a similar immunity a second time; and our only security against it must be in the means of protection we can ourselves dispose of against the first sudden onset. I say the first onset, for I am not disposed now, less than ever perhaps, to attribute to the ostensible Government here, the Tycoon and his Ministers, a deliberate intention to let us be sacrificed by assassins, or the followers of any Daimio, however powerless they may feel to prevent it, if any of these should resolve upon it. I come to this conclusion from the evidence I have of the trouble and expense they have long put themselves to, in order to surround me by a large guard, always more than 100 men; and when I ride out an escort of from ten to twenty mounted yaconins are always at my back. True, they are very useless, for they have enough to do with both hands to keep their seat, and guide their horses, and certainly could not draw a sword in my defence were I set upon in the streets by armed men on foot. And also from the further proof I had on the night of the 5th, that although we might all have been slain many minutes before they made their way into the house for our rescue, yet they did fight, killing and wounding many of the assailants, and sharing the same fate themselves, though the former were heard to shout they had no quarrel with the Japanese, but only the hated foreigners. It was not any predetermination not to fight, therefore, but that unreadiness and inaptitude for meeting the danger that assailed us, which we had to complain of, and have always to fear.

But if the Government, as a Government, really willed the death of any one or all of the Representatives, these same loönins are always at their disposal, and they might be

employed sooner or later with effect, in such a way as to leave the responsibility of the Government just as much covered as it is now.

I conclude, therefore, that the Government, inimical to all extension of intercourse or trade ; pledged, apparently, at all hazards, to prevent it ; and desiring, rather than hoping, that we may all some day take our departure, when thoroughly convinced nothing but danger and vexations are to be reaped in such inhospitable regions, yet refuse to adopt the means which some of the more violent or less scrupulous of the Daimios, who may or may not be in their councils, adopt as the most summary and certain mode of bringing on a rupture of relations with foreign Powers, a rupture which all desire, and would aid, if they only saw how it was to be attained ; and some are perfectly ready to go on, and resort to violence, even though war should be the consequence.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Translations of the Document found on the party of Loonins taken prisoners.

Translation No. 1.

I, ALTHOUGH a person of low degree, have taken the earnest resolution to perform a great deed to the honour of the Sovereign, and to expel the foreigner, as it is intolerable to stand by and see the sacred Empire violated by the barbarian. But properly the performance of such a deed as shall cause the might of the Empire to sparkle in foreign regions is difficult for the power of a person of low standing. Yet I am simple of opinion, with a desire to combine a very little sincerity and a very limited force, whereby partly to shower a thousand benefits upon the Empire. Should this also tend by-and-bye to expel the foreigner, and if I could tranquillize the Imperial minds, it would indeed redound to my greatest honour, though but a person of the lowest degree. I have thus taken the resolution regardless of my own life.

The 5th month of the 1st year of Boon-Kew (June or July).

Aringa Hanya.
Okami Tomejiro.
Maieki Simpachiro.
Mori Hanzo.
Sakaki Etzabro.
Kimoora Ko-onské.
Ishikawa Kinshiro.

Yazawa Kinnoské.
Watanahe Go-ozo.
Furukawa Shimenoské.
Yamazaki Sinnoské.
Nakamooro Téiské.
Kobori Torakichi.
Korasawa Goro.

Translation No. 2.

I, THOUGH I am a person of low standing, have not patience to stand by and see the sacred Empire defiled by a foreigner. This time I have determined in my heart to undertake to follow out my master's will. Though, being altogether humble myself, I cannot make the might of the country to shine in foreign nations, yet, with a little faith, and a little warrior's power, I wish in my heart separately (by myself), though I am a person of low degree, to bestow upon my country one out of a great many benefits. If this thing from time to time may cause the foreigner to retire, and partly tranquillize both the minds of the Mikado and of the Government (Tycoon), I shall take to myself the highest praise.

Regardless of my own life I am determined to set out.

Literal Translation (No. 3).

JE suis un homme d'humble corps (d'humble extraction). Je vois d'ici avec impatience les étrangers souiller le pays des Dieux (le Japon). Aussi suis-je déterminé à accomplir un grand fait d'armes qui fera briller la bravoure de mon pays au loin dans les pays étrangers. Cette entreprise est difficile pour un homme infime ; mais la pensée de l'homme infime soutenue par un peu de courage peut cependant l'accomplir. Le résultat de mon plan me vaudrait la faveur de millions (de mes compatriotes), car les étrangers s'en retourneraient dans leur pays. Et si je pouvais réussir à tranquilliser ainsi les pensées du Mikado et Gongen Sama (ou les Empereurs défunts) pour la centième partie seulement, ce fait serait

pour moi un grand honneur. En agissant ainsi je recevrais des remerciements ; aussi j'ai résolu de le faire. Je n'ai que faire de la vie ; je fais le sacrifice de mon corps. Ceci est dit.

(Signé)

Literal Translation (No. 4).

COMME je ne puis, bien que de bas rang, supporter de voir que l'Empire sacré soit déshonoré par les étrangers, je veux faire une grande action (dont j'ai pris la résolution dans mon cœur) afin de rendre honneur au Mikado et pour chasser les étrangers ; à proprement dire, il est difficile à un homme de mon rang à le mettre en exécution et à faire briller hors du pays la puissance du nôtre. Mais c'est mon intention de faire mon devoir et de rassembler une petite force armée, et de rendre ainsi à ma patrie un peu de ce que je lui dois (pour une centième partie).

En vérité, pour moi, d'une condition aussi basse, ce serait un bonheur incomparable si cette action devenait le principe de l'expulsion des étrangers, et si j'avais ainsi l'honneur de calmer les sentiments (l'âme) du Mikado et du Taïcoun ; je pars sans souci pour mon corps et ma vie, car j'ai pris ma résolution dans mon cœur.

No. 6.

Earl Russell to Mr. Alcock.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1861.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches of the 25th and 26th of July last, reporting the state of affairs.

From the despatches and papers you have sent me, I infer—

First. That the attempted murder of the members of Her Majesty's Legation at Japan was perpetrated by a band of low assassins, prompted, and perhaps to be rewarded, by some persons of higher rank.

Secondly. That the guards appointed by the Government fought bravely and risked their lives in defence of Her Majesty's Legation, but that there was on their part a want of vigilance in not preventing the entrance of the house of the Legation by the band of assassins.

Thirdly. That the Government has taken no part in favouring this murderous attempt, but is too weak to give any sufficient security against a renewal of it.

Fourthly. That a British guard of sailors or Marines inside the house, and a Japanese guard at all the entrances and approaches, will afford the best immediate means of safety.

No. 7.

Earl Russell to Mr. Alcock.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 11, 1861.

I HAVE now received your despatches of the 6th and 9th of July, giving an account of the attack on the British Mission during the night of the 5th, and of the measures which, up to the latter date, you had taken ; and I have to convey to you, and to the several members of the Mission, my sincere congratulations on your escape from the danger with which you were threatened, and my entire approval of the gallant defence which you made under the trying circumstances in which you were placed.

I entirely approve, also, of your determination to adopt a temporizing policy, so as to leave the decision of the course to be eventually taken in Japan to the unfettered judgment of Her Majesty's Government.

I reserve my final instructions until I shall have received your reports subsequent to the arrival of Admiral Sir James Hope at Yeddo ; and I may hope by that time also to have had the advantage of personal communication with Mr. Oliphant, whom you have very properly decided to send home, in order that he may give full explanations in regard to the state and prospect of affairs in Japan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 8.

Earl Russell to Mr. Alcock.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 11, 1861.

I HAVE read, with much interest, the account of your recent journey from Nagasaki to Yeddo, which is contained in your despatch of the 10th of July, and I have to acquaint you that I entirely approve of your having undertaken the journey, and of the course which you pursued for overcoming the various obstacles which the Japanese authorities seem to have interposed to its completion.

I have to authorize you to charge in the account of the Extraordinary Expenses of your Mission the sum expended by you on the journey.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 9.

Mr. Alcock to Lord J. Russell.—(Received October 28.)

(Extract.)

Yeddo, August 16, 1861.

I PROPOSE to bring under notice the present state of our relations, and those of other Treaty Powers in this country, with reference to a letter addressed by the Tycoon to Her Majesty, and another from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to myself, translations of which are inclosed. The purport of both is to urge the expediency, if not the necessity, of deferring for a period of seven years the opening of Yeddo to foreigners generally, and the other ports designated in the Treaty.

The attack on the Legation, and this proposition of the Japanese Government to defer the execution of Treaties in regard to the opening of new ports for trade, and any additional points of contact with the people, are simultaneous events of great significance and importance. Coming together they seem to point with no doubtful meaning to a crisis in our relations. It is, indeed, impossible not to feel, here on the spot, that we have arrived at a turning-point in the history of all foreign relations with Japan, or to doubt that on the course now taken by both Contracting Parties will greatly depend what shall be the final issue of the efforts hitherto made by Treaty and Resident Ministers at the capital to establish on a permanent basis of goodwill and mutual advantage political and commercial relations with a country so long and so obstinately persisting in a policy of isolation.

In proportion to the importance of this issue is the grave responsibility which attaches to the action of the foreign Representatives now in Yeddo. A false step on their part at so critical a moment might plunge the country into a civil war, or equally throw everything into confusion, under the alarm and excitement of any anticipations of foreign war. Error even in another direction, by excess of caution, may give such encouragement to the hostile agencies at work, that the position created by Treaties will be too far lost to be ever recovered by peaceable means.

Your Lordship will readily conceive my anxiety to avoid both these dangers, the Scylla and Charybdis of the actual situation; and that it has required wary steering not to be influenced by fanciful dangers nor paralysed by those which were only too real, with all the consciousness that too much caution would be at least as fatal as rashness or boldness in the wrong place.

After more than a month thus passed, I hope I can now give your Lordship such assurances of success in this perilous navigation as shall relieve Her Majesty's Government of much immediate anxiety, give them the necessary time to come to a deliberate opinion as to the policy they will adopt, and better hope, withal, of final good resulting than has hitherto appeared warranted.

I could not have said so much a week ago; but yesterday brought a new phase, and will, in all probability, be seen hereafter to make an epoch in the history of our relations. The object of two years' labour and seemingly fruitless effort was gained, and the want of which had always been felt fatal to any steady or sure progress with Japanese rulers. I succeeded in obtaining what I had well nigh despaired of, a confidential interview with the Foreign Ministers, to the exclusion of the Governors of Foreign Affairs, all subordinate officers, and attendants of every class. And the result of this first commencement of really confidential relations will, I feel satisfied, not only be felt in present benefit, but prove, long

years hence, to be the very pivot on which will turn the whole character of the future intercourse between foreigners and Japanese.

I went on the 14th instant to present Admiral Hope, who had landed the day before, and also Sir Hercules Robinson, the Governor of Hong Kong; and I took Mr. Oliphant with me, determined to profit by the opportuneness of the circumstances, to make a last effort to penetrate them with views which I could only hope to recommend to their acceptance.

The Japanese Government was most anxious for the success of their propositions to defer the opening of the ports; they were not quite at their ease about the view that might be taken of the late attempted massacre; and Mr. Oliphant was just about to take his departure for England with the Tycoon's letter and my despatches on both these questions.

Profiting by this rare combination of favourable circumstances, after a few minutes' conversation on lesser matters, I told them that the present aspect of affairs in Japan, and the state of foreign relations, were very critical; that the proposition of the Government to abandon important Treaty rights, at the same time that the attempt has been made in the heart of the capital to massacre every one in the Legation, would naturally demand some resolution on the part of Her Majesty's Government of a decisive character; and that they might have the fullest and best information to guide them, I was sending Mr. Oliphant to give in person more than I could possibly write. In this view, also, I had brought him with me, that he might hear what the Ministers might wish to say after listening to some things I also had to tell them, but which I could not communicate, though of very grave importance to them, otherwise than confidentially, and with no one but themselves present. I added I was aware it was contrary to their custom, but now they had entered on new relations with foreign Powers, they must see the necessity, from time to time, of adapting the modes of intercourse to the exigencies of a new situation, and that it was not even in their interest that what I had to communicate should in the first instance reach any ears but their own.

Of all that passed during the ten hours which the two conferences occupied, it would be impossible to enter into satisfactory detail here. I must content myself, as I proceed with the consideration of our present position and future policy, to refer to some of the more salient points.

My persistence in remaining in the Legation after the attack, merely gathering round me some better and additional means of defence in a guard from the "Ringdove," and in taking my usual rides (though with no better defence than an additional number of useless Japanese guards), was not without some risk (and nothing is attainable in the present state of Japan without both risk and danger), but the advantage gained has been well worth a considerable amount of both.

Our position in the capital has been more firmly established, at the very time it was most shaken and threatened, and the attitude taken by M. de Bellecourt and myself has tended, I think, to hold in check those, whoever they might be, who thought the foreign Representatives were to be finally driven from the capital by menace and violence; and so far may discourage renewed attempts.

This, taken in conjunction with the new relations just established with the Government, are the most important results of what I may, without abuse of terms, call our six weeks' campaign in the capital; held against all enemies, in what might seem, I must confess, in a military point of view, a most indefensible position, even against loönins, with no better arms than swords, but unknown backers and protectors.

These two results, however, suffice to modify greatly our position in Japan, and if Japanese experience will not allow me to write in a very sanguine spirit, and there are still too many rocks and breakers a-head for an experienced eye to regard the passage into deep smooth water beyond either sure or easy, yet I cannot avoid taking a more confident and hopeful view of our position and prospects than I should have felt justified in submitting to your Lordship at any earlier period.

In trying to give a clear view of the grounds for this improved feeling, I fear I may have taken more of your Lordship's time than can well be spared, for what may appear, after all, only preliminary to the main subject; but I think it will be found to diminish the necessity for entering into many explanations as I proceed, which would otherwise have been required, and I could not so well have accounted for a change of tone and modification of opinions which might have seemed to your Lordship tainted with contradiction or inconsistency, when compared with the general tenor of my recent despatches.

The position of Foreign Representatives in Japan is without precedent, at all events in modern times. For any parallel we must go back to the middle ages in Europe, or our

first relations with the Sublime Porte, when Constantinople represented the East, and Ambassadors were in danger of the Seven Towers if they gave offence to the Grand Turk. It is not surprising, therefore, that this conflict between actualities and diplomatic traditions founded on international law and usages of civilized States should carry something of bewilderment with it, and prove a source of perplexity to those who are compelled by their situation to try and reconcile the two. To maintain Treaty rights without resorting to the only arguments which carry weight, to preserve peaceful relations, and yet not compromise the true interests and dignity of his country; these are only some of the trying conditions attached to a Diplomatic Mission in Japan: diversity of opinion as to how such seeming impossibilities may best be met is inevitable.

Of decided bad faith and unwillingness on the part of the Japanese Government to protect foreigners, I think there is no sufficient evidence. On the contrary, I have come to the conclusion that they do really desire our protection, and have never willed or consented to our destruction, because, if they had, there was nothing whatever to have prevented the execution of such a design. Bodies of irresponsible loönins could always be secured to attack a Legation or assassinate a Minister, and if one attack failed, another and another might follow, and, in the end, make success certain.

I think this is conclusive,—that their protection is ineffective, and always will be so, unless close imprisonment within four walls in the midst of a guard of jailers were accepted, is, I think, equally certain. Their inability by any other means to protect us effectually from either insult or injury, while an actively-hostile party seek our destruction, is so clear that I am convinced no British Representative can, for the present, and so long as this state of things shall exist, be maintained in Yeddo without efficient means of protection drawn from our own forces, and irrespective of anything the Japanese Government can or will do. This involves a guard for the Legation (and Kanagawa Consulate, perhaps), and a properly-mounted escort of Indian or European troopers. A guard of from twenty-five to fifty men on foot, and a mounted escort of a dozen Lancers or Light Horse, with carbines, is what is wanted for excursions outside the house, and a Legation in a defensible position, and built with some reference to attack. This last is already in process of realization, and the site chosen. Without some such provision, loss of life, fresh complications, and treatment injurious to our national dignity, I regard as inevitable. We can only look for the cessation of danger, and the consequent necessity for such measures, from some political change in the country—either the increased strength of the Government, or the diminished vigour and daring of the party now fighting their battle with the Government over our bodies.

We are not certain as to what the real motives of this party are, or what their object, and the Japanese Government does not give the needful information. A statement in relation to the attack on the Legation is the latest and the most explicit of any put forward by the Ministers (though the feelings and opinions are given as those of the prisoners, speaking of the party attacking the Legation). “Priests and men of low degree,” they say, “band together with a determination to return to the ancient laws and system of government, all recent Treaties being in contravention of the laws; and are further incited to this, by the fact that officers and other classes are reduced to a state of indigence since the opening of the ports.” And they add that such conspirators and plotters against the life of foreigners conclude that “if, in consequence of the murder of foreigners, a rupture should result with foreign Powers, then the ancient system of exclusion would be restored, and the Empire would flourish;” and in pursuit of such a patriotic work, no risk to life, they conceive, is deserving of a moment’s thought.

Certainly, if there are many of this mode of thinking and acting in the country, it will be long before it can become either a pleasant or a safe place of residence to the foreigner, exposed to the machinations of a race of political Thugs, who take to assassination and massacre as a form of patriotism; for no criminals are so dangerous as those who can reconcile to their notions of virtue the pursuit of their objects.

If the Japanese Government entertains the remotest idea that the Treaty Powers would ever contemplate relinquishing all that was stipulated in Treaties, and go back to Nagasaki as their only foothold in Japan, we need not wonder that they should begin by proposing the surrender of our rights in regard to the new ports, and next year contemplate a like concession as regards those opened when the Treaties first came into operation.

It was especially in view of this, that in the recent conference, when the Ministers pressed to know what was meant by the term “conditional”—as I had told them they need never expect Her Majesty’s Government would give an unconditional consent, even if, in consideration for the urgent desire of the Tycoon and his Ministers,

and in view of the political state of the country, they should be disposed to meet their wishes, so far as the new ports were concerned;—I then said, by way of illustration, that supposing it were possible, after this concession were once obtained, that the Japanese Government, the next year, should find out public discontent was not appeased—that hostility to them and to the foreigner still continued, and should then urge the further concession of all places of trade except Nagasaki, some condition would certainly be attached, to ensure that not only one concession should not be made a precedent for more, but that one object, at least, for which the first was made should be, in effect, attained as some equivalent, namely, the cessation of hostility, insult, and outrage; a condition that, failing this, the concession itself should be null and void.

To this they replied that they had no expectation of our ever consenting to retire to Nagasaki (the Dutch word first used by the interpreter was they had no such “hope,” and which he changed afterwards to “expectation”): plainly enough this was their feeling; not that they did not desire it, but that they could not venture to hope anything so pleasant.

As to the political position, little more need be said. The existence of a wide-spread discontent was much insisted upon by the Ministers, as also a general dearness of products, referred exclusively to the foreigners; partly due in effect to their sudden demands, to derangement in the currency, and to the hoarding of rice in the territories of different Daimios, who, in the unsettled state of affairs, saw danger of war, both foreign and intestine, and wished to be prepared against scarcity for their own people. The best remedy they could devise for this was the announcement that no new places of trade were to be opened; and as regarded the commerce now existing, it was hoped increased produce would soon prevent any pressure on prices, evidently trusting to the stationary nature of the demand. They hoped this, and the allayment of hostility with improved security; but the future no one could answer for, and consequently they could really guarantee nothing. I told the Ministers Her Majesty’s Government would infinitely prefer an honest declaration of this kind to assurances without adequate grounds, or insincerely given.

As to the trade and our actual position, very general complaints reached me unofficially of obstructions, the stoppage of produce, by the authorities it was supposed, and a large diminution of trade. I was anxious, therefore, to know what were the facts, and I now inclose Captain Vyse’s Trade Returns for the half-year ending June 30, and a series of letters from some of the principal merchants. The general tenor of these is to express satisfaction with the progress of trade, and disbelief in any really vexatious restrictions or limitations on trade. I am of course only too happy to learn on such good authority that the merchants themselves have reason to be satisfied. And certainly the statistics show an increase both on the export and import trade. It is true that last February I was met by a long series of grievances against the Japanese officials, placed on record at my invitation in a letter from the body of merchants, copy of which I inclose. And although I am led to conclude from Captain Vyse’s report, and indeed their own statements, that no change has since then been made, yet these grievances are now either shown to be no grievances, or of little importance. As some of these grievances, however, such as continued interference with labour and boat-hire, and laxity in enforcing mercantile contracts, are legitimate subjects of complaint, I purpose in a few days proceeding to Yokohama, and the Ministers have promised to send Sakai Wookionoski (the member of the Second Council who negotiated with us in February for our return to Yeddo), in order to try if some immediate steps cannot be taken to provide a remedy.

It will be seen that Mr. ——— gives a very decided opinion that “the amount of business transacted is almost of itself sufficient proof that the small and hitherto almost penniless traders have not had to cope with any very serious official restrictions;” nor does he believe that any restrictions have been imposed on commerce.

The trade of Yokohama, both in imports and exports, so far as respects its extent, has in his opinion “more than answered the expectations of the most sanguine, and at the present moment there are indications that the season we are just entering upon will be one of increased importance, particularly as respects the export of tea and silk.” This is Mr. ———’s revised opinion after six months’ further experience, which he admits has greatly modified the construction he put upon Government action in February last.

Mr. ——— takes a less favourable view, both of the trade and the action of the Japanese Government, and dwells a good deal on the difficulties imposed by the non-currency of the dollar, for its equivalent weight in itzebus.

I may remark here that, by a curious coincidence, one of the strongest points made

by the Ministers in the late conferences, as a cause of discontent and national loss to the Japanese, was the non-regulation of the dollar currency to its true value, which they contended, more earnestly even than in the beginning, was 1 itzebu, or 1,500 cash, not 240, at which it generally passes. They even ventured once more to urge that a new coinage of half-itzebus, each of the weight of a half-dollar, should be issued; and I had the greatest difficulty, once dragged into the discussion, to induce them to abandon it, as tending only to loss of time, their proposal being a thousand times more impracticable now than when they first attempted the issue of such a coin on our arrival. With the merchants clamouring that they are robbed of 30 per cent., and their trade restricted in consequence, and the Government of the country still more earnestly protesting against what they consider a robbery of something like 70 per cent., and urging the abasement of the dollar to that extent, as one of the conditions of restored peace, and the cessation of hostility in the popular mind, all adjustment of claims so utterly irreconcilable is a simple impossibility. Each party is determined to regard the other as defrauding or despoiling them of an intrinsic value, and more correct ideas on both sides of the question can alone afford any hope of improvement. Among the merchants, however, there has long been great divergence of opinion as to the currency question, and its influence on trade. While some contend it has proved a great cause of the development of a profitable import trade, which otherwise would not have existed, and no perceptible disadvantage, others, like Mr. ———, admitting that it forced an import trade, maintain that it injures the exports. Mr. ——— is also firm in his opinion that the Government does seriously control and restrict the trade. But the statistics are strong against him. In the half-year ending the 30th of June—

				1860.	1861.
Imports ..	..	..	..	£34,636	£184,312
Exports ..	..	..	..	£389,958	£406,150

The excess in imports may, as is alleged, represent goods at present unsaleable, but still the increase of all foreign trade, under both heads, is too large to be explained away. The representatives of the two great houses represent the extreme points of divergence. The other writers will be found to range between them in various shades of approximation.

With these details, I think your Lordship will sufficiently understand what interests we have engaged, and at what risk and cost and under what disadvantages they must be maintained, if maintained at all. Life in the capital is very insecure. Our position there is altogether one of insecurity; menaced by very determined enemies, hostile not only to the continued presence of strangers there, but to all foreign relations, and anxious to attack the Government from that which is probably their weak side with the country. To outrage or to kill the foreign Representatives would seem to present the double advantage of being a dangerous blow to the Tycoon's Government, and a highly patriotic act in vindication of time-honoured laws and customs. There is no hope that this state of affairs will speedily change; and the difficulties consequent on such hostility can only be partially met, in the interval, by supplying means of protection from without, and such as may at the same impose a feeling of respect for a Foreign Minister, by the signs of rank and power, and the visible means of defending himself, and maintaining the dignity of his Sovereign. We have tried to dispense entirely with this, and find it will not do. A long and unpleasant experience has proved that mounted officers of native Princes and nobles will ride at a Minister with a howl of insult and outrage, or ride him down, simply because they know they can do it with impunity, while he is unprovided with any escort befitting the rank he claims, or capable of making it respected. Loönins will attempt his life, or attack a Legation in like manner, because they believe while he has only a Japanese guard, success is easy, or at least not too difficult to be achieved. The only remedy is to take this ground of temptation away, and trust to our own strength, with time and patience, to live down this hostility, and establish a better position on its ashes.

The trade for which this somewhat onerous position would have to be maintained an indefinite period, both merchants and statistics agree in showing, is one of considerable present value and future promise.

With some 5,000,000 lbs. of tea, and 12,000 bales of silk, and 5,000 piculs of copper, exports all rapidly increasing at the end of the second year from one port in value amounting, in the six months only, to 406,150/., there is much to hope for in a country so rich and fertile. And when the merchants on the spot tell us that "the import trade has developed beyond reasonable expectations, when it is considered that the Japanese had for so long been independent of foreign manufactures, and that nearly every staple of

Manchester and Bradford manufacture has in a greater or lesser degree been purchased in considerable quantities," and this of a trade in its infancy, struggling under many disadvantages, it must be difficult for the Government of a commercial country like Great Britain to contemplate its abandonment, even though its maintenance and protection must unavoidably entail not only expense, but anxiety as to possible complications, in a country which seems to be in a state of transition, and is certainly unsettled. That our Diplomatic and Consular Agents should be able to live in the country, and live without always carrying their lives in their hands, or under a constant sense of imminent risk, is certainly one essential condition. That we should be able to insure such respect and observance for our Minister as will, at least, protect him from daily outrage, and the flag from insult, is another; and, lastly, that trade, for which chiefly we are led to incur so much trouble and risk, should be allowed a tolerably free development, proportioned to the natural wants and resources of the country, are all the conditions absolutely essential. But these must be secured, or we had better relinquish our hold altogether.

It only remains for me to bring under consideration the proposition of the Tycoon and his Ministers for the deferred opening of the ports, and to state my opinion as to the expediency of acceding to or refusing it, with due regard to the probable results in either case.

Whether we look forward, or dwell only on the present aspect of affairs, there is grievous want felt of more full and reliable information as to the actual Government of the country. Ostensibly, the Executive exclusively consists of a Tycoon and two Councils of State, a first and a second, the former being composed of five Cabinet Ministers, one of whom acts as a President, being Daimios of a third or fourth class, as regards revenue and territories. But behind them, in more or less vague and shadowy outline, though real in substance, only enveloped in a haze of mystery, are, first, the only acknowledged Sovereign of the country, the "Mikado," in all the odour and sanctity of a heaven-born existence, descended from the Gods, too sacred, indeed, to mingle in the world or be seen, save by his own immediate Court. From him, theoretically, the Tycoon receives his investiture (after being placed by the Daimios in his seat) as Lieutenant-General of the Empire. But, although to the Mikado is due the profound respect and allegiance of every Japanese, yet, as he is held not to meddle with the outer world and its vulgar interests, his demands upon them must in effect be very small.

Theory and practice, however, do not here entirely accord. To any change in the fundamental laws or customs—the making of Treaties, for example—his consent or sanction is essential to give them force. I asked, therefore, since the Minister spoke to us of hostility to us from that source, whether the Mikado had sanctioned our Treaty, and they replied in the affirmative—a point of some importance, it will be seen, according to the theory of government and legality.

Nevertheless the Mikado, through his female Court, receives from time to time news of what is going on outside. There are even some among the Daimios who keep up a sort of secret communication, raising false alarms, and creating unpleasant relations between the Mikado and Tycoon. Especially has this been the case of late in respect to foreign trade and the Treaties. These have been represented as the cause of general distress in the country. The Government of the Tycoon are taking steps to put an end to this. There is, as I am told at Hiogo, a marriage on the tapis between the Tycoon and a daughter of the Mikado, and it was for these reasons I was requested not to go to Miaco, where a strong feeling of enmity had been fostered. For that reason, too, it is anxiously desired that Hiogo and Osaka should not be places of resort and trade.

The Mikado is thus not altogether a myth. There are Daimios who receive the investiture of honours and office from him, which places them higher in the hierarchy than the Tycoon himself. The Prince of Kanga is one. There are others, by way of fomenting troubles, who ply the Mikado's Court with disturbing rumours, to the disadvantage of the rival, but confessedly subordinate Court at Yeddo, and keep up the smouldering embers of a still possible explosion, in the renewal of the old struggles between the true Sovereign and the usurping General-in-chief, each backed by their partisans among the Daimios. The bare possibility must act as a powerful check and means of control over the Tycoon by his leading feudatories. To displease them by his system of government, or push them to extremities, is to enter the lists with the only Sovereign *de jure*, backed by all who are hostile to the Tycoon ruling *de facto*.

With this danger the Tycoons, ever since the first appearance of foreigners to talk of Treaties under Commodore Perry in 1852-53, seem to have been harassed; and with this danger the present youthful Tycoon and his Cabinet would appear at this moment to be menaced: and they are striving, by deferring the opening of more ports, and, as they

hope, putting some limit to the too rapid extension of trade, to offer terms of concession to the chief agents of a hostile movement ; at the same time that it may propitiate those who actually suffer from increased prices, and thus take away certain elements of action and support to their enemies. Some of the leading and more influential of the semi-independent Princes, the twenty-four (to whose names an asterisk is prefixed) who have never bowed the knee to the Tycoon, and do not hold their fiefs from him, having been allies and friends of Taiko Sama, the founder of the dynasty (which the ancestors of the present put aside), must no doubt be ranged on the side of the Tycoon, and dictate to the Cabinet their policy.

Some are more or less hostile to foreigners, others more bent on temporizing ; and amidst these shifting sands and whirlpools, the ostensible Government, the "Gorogio," or Cabinet, naturally are driven and tossed, very much at the mercy of the elements that surround them. They are trying, it seems to me, to steady themselves. The Regent was no doubt a great loss, as a man of determined views and character ; but now, with this youthful Prince, time is to them all-important—time for him to get older, and they themselves to draw closer some support ; to appease a discontent insidiously encouraged among all the two-sworded officers and retainers, pinched by the increased dearness of everything. In these circumstances, the deferred opening of the new ports is some of the heavy ballast they are anxious to throw overboard to lighten the vessel, and make her more manageable and seaworthy.

I believe this truly paints the actual Government and its position. The inclosed Tables of the *personnel* of the Government of Japan, and of the 143 out of 600 Daimios who alone possess capitals and fortresses, classified according to their revenue, will throw some additional light upon the whole subject. The 24 to whose names an asterisk is prefixed, do not hold their fiefs from the Tycoon, but in their own hereditary right, as descendants of independent or Sovereign Princes.

These are some only of the many difficulties which have to be encountered in any attempt to establish permanent relations with this country. In addition to the antagonism of races everywhere visible when Asiatics and Europeans meet, there is a purely Japanese cause of repulsion and distrust in their past experience of foreign intercourse. The present is heir to the past, in a very unfortunate sense for us here. We are regarded as the direct representatives, if not the lineal descendants of the first political adventurers, Portuguese and Spaniards, half pirates, half merchants, and both by turns, with missionaries and zealots, who, in 1540, were first received with open arms, and a century later cast out with a nation's curses, as the fomenters of civil and religious feuds, and a long-protracted internecine war ;—descendants of the men who drained the country of its precious metals, set up a spiritual dominion absorbing all things and leaving nothing to the temporal power, and ended by plunging the whole country into the most terrible and devastating of internecine wars ; heirs to those the Japanese rulers of that age crucified as malefactors, flung headlong from the cliffs of Pappenburg into the Bay of Nagasaki, or buried under the smouldering ruins of Simabana, where 37,000 of their allies and converts fell in a single day by the sword of the besiegers, aided by the Dutch artillery.

Nowhere is the cruel past so vividly reflected in the present, or its lessons more indelibly written in the hearts of the rulers, as in Japan.

No wonder we meet with hatred and distrust in a country where such memories live.

Even their more recent experience of foreigners has not been altogether calculated to reassure them. A rabid desire for their gold, and a scornful disregard of their prejudices and customs, have been too apparent to make us welcome guests. The beginning of renewed intercourse has been but the beginning of troubles and calamities. Both the American Treaties were inaugurated by the death of the reigning Tycoon who signed or sanctioned them, the first by the sword and the second by poison. One of the Royal brothers was deposed and exiled, and the Regent of the Kingdom was slain in revenge for this act by the Prince of Mito's followers. The Prince raised a revolt in his territory, and finally he was assassinated, and the end is not yet.

We must be patient, then, and either leave them to themselves—the only boon for which they would be really grateful—or consent to bear the natural penalty of a past it is out of our power now to change, unless we are prepared to justify their fears and hatred by making our trade a pretext for all the calamities of war and the conquest of the country. I cannot think, under the circumstances as they are here set forth, that Her Majesty's Government will hesitate as to the rejection of the latter alternative. As little, it seems to me, upon the face of the documents now sent, giving the statistics of an existing trade which the merchants declare to have exceeded their most sanguine anticipations, and to be full of promise, will your Lordship contemplate our abandonment of Japan, even

were there not political interests in relation to the progress of Russia, and questions affecting our prestige in the East, all strongly militating against such a policy.

But if both these alternatives are rejected, none other is left but that offered by the Japanese Government,—to trust them, strengthen their hands by consenting to defer rights it might involve them in a civil war to insist upon; and, with measures taken by ourselves for the protection of Political Agents in the capital, and merchants at Kanagawa, trust to time and firmness, tempered with conciliation, from which alone anything is to be hoped in a country situated as Japan now is.

I have prepared them not to expect concession without conditions, even in the supposition that Her Majesty's Government might be willing to entertain the proposition favourably, which I was careful to say I could in no way answer for.

The conditions I would suggest would be, the port of Tsusima during the deferred period for all the Treaty Powers. They offered it to me in exchange for Hiogo, and therefore are willing to cede it.

One of the best results of the interview, I am led to think, was the opportunity it afforded of convincing them that their best security against aggression from foreign Powers lay, not in their isolation, but in giving to all a friendly interest and common rights, since all would then unite to prevent acts on the part of any one which would be an injury to them, if an injury to Japan.

The Protocol or Convention should distinctly record that Her Majesty only agreed to the deferred opening of the ports on the distinct assurance that the Tycoon hoped thereby to succeed in allaying the public discontent, from which all danger sprang, and that trade might go on without restriction or obstruction. But in the event of that hope being deceived, either by the continuance of danger to Her Majesty's Legation or obstructions to trade at the ports, Her Majesty would hold the concession invalid, or open to further consideration.

I presume your Lordship will require some indemnity for Mr. Oliphant, whose left hand is, I fear, disabled for life. It will, of course, be exceedingly unpalatable, and a difficult matter to negotiate; but I think, as a matter of policy in the public interest, and in justice to the individual, it is one that may be pressed with advantage. If they escape all responsibility in one sense for such an outrage on a national flag, they should at least be made to feel that it carries penalties, and that, of all the indulgences their lawless classes could give themselves, the most costly one to the Tycoon and his Government would be that of cutting the throats of Her Majesty's Minister and his Attachés. For this reason, it should be liberal without being excessive, since by the amount the measure of the outrage on our national dignity will in some degree be estimated.

The negotiation might be initiated here if your Lordship thought fit, perhaps before my departure; and they might have the option of either concluding it on the spot and without delay, or sending their own Plenipotentiaries to England, with full powers to that end, and a knowledge of our demands.

In the meantime I propose to make a rule, under the Order in Council, suspending for the present the opening of Yeddo; and the Minister received the information at the close of our conference, with undisguised satisfaction.

I am sorry to have made such large demands on your Lordship's time, but I hope the importance of the questions, with the necessity for some immediate decision, and the great variety of facts required to enable any one at a distance to realize our position in Japan, and that of the Government, will prove a sufficient justification.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

The Tycoon of Japan to Her Majesty the Queen.

(Translation.)

WITH a greeting I make this communication to your Majesty the Queen of Great Britain.

Since the conclusion of the Treaty between our respective Empires, a number of important matters has from time to time been set in order, and that which is written in the Treaty has mostly had the opportunity of being carried into effect.

But there are various objections that the Article of the Treaty providing for the opening of the ports of Hiogo and Ne-gata, and for the carrying on of trade in the cities of Yeddo and Osaka, should be brought into operation on the conditions stated therein. I desire, therefore, to defer the opening of these places for a time. Further particulars regarding this have been communicated by the Members of my Council of State (Ministers)

F

of Foreign Affairs, Koodsî Yamatonokami and Ando Tsoosimanokami, to the British Minister in my Empire, Rutherford Alcock, Esq.

I hope that your Majesty, with friendly feeling, will give your consent to this, and I wish for the happiness and prosperity of your Empire.

21st day, 4th month, 1st year of Boonkew (30th May, 1861).

(Name of His Majesty the Tycoon.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

The Japanese Ministers for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Alcock.

(Translation.)

WE have hereby to communicate the following to your Excellency.

Since the conclusion of the Treaty between our Empire and Britain, the intercourse between both Empires has daily become more and more extended, by the arrival of the Envoy, by friendly correspondence, and by the exchange of the respective productions. A number of important matters has also, from time to time, been thereby set in order, and that which is written in the Treaty has mostly had the opportunity of being carried into effect.

Nearly three hundred years have now elapsed since our Empire discontinued its intercourse with foreign Powers.

Recently, however, in consequence of the urgent advice of the President of the United States of America, and of the King of the Netherlands, this old-standing law was almost entirely altered, and it was agreed that foreign ships sailing near our coasts should be supplied with fuel, water, provisions, and necessaries, at the ports of Simoda and Hakodadi.

Again, after the arrival of the American Minister, Townsend Harris, as the circumstances of all countries were occasionally communicated to us, our Government having taken into consideration the existing posture of foreign affairs, concluded the Treaty of Amity which lately entered into operation, and established free trade in the same manner, first with Britain, subsequently with Russia, France, Holland, America, &c.

But it is found that in carrying this into effect the actual result differs considerably, in respect of the general circumstances, from what was anticipated, and no profit has yet been derived, but the lower classes of the people have already suffered loss thereby.

The price of things is daily increasing, in consequence of the large quantity of products which is exported to foreign countries, and which is seldom, in return, imported into our Empire. And while the lower classes of the people, in every case, when deprived of the means of gaining their livelihood ascribe the cause to trade, they occasionally give expression to their ingratitude (discontent); yea, even the respectable and wealthy classes have mostly now no satisfaction in trade, so that there will soon be those who will declare their condemnation of the abrogation of the previous existing prohibition, and who will desire the restitution of the former law.

As probably the form of government which excluded foreign nations, since it was established, its practice forming the usage, has been deeply rooted into the national spirit, and the intercourse with foreign Powers thus unknown, it would be very difficult to reconcile the national feeling to the altered form of government, even did the difficulty previously alluded to not exist.

Since, now, such a prejudice (loss) has already extended itself throughout the whole Empire, every one is grieved on reading the stipulation that the ports of Hiogo and Ne-egata are to be opened, and that foreign trade will be carried on at Yeddo and Osaka, as stated in Article III of the Treaty everywhere published, and regards with dejected aspect the speedy approach of the appointed time, in contemplating whether the loss and the injury will be still further increased.

The popular spirit having already arrived at such a pitch, it is very difficult, even for the power and the authority of the Government, so to manage that each one should clearly understand the future advantage, and to cause them to endure for a time the present grief.

Also, to accustom themselves to what is at hand, and not to regard what is looming in the distance, is the custom of the ignorant people. Should, therefore, violence be used to attain the object, it would be uncertain what mischief would result from such an act against the national spirit.

Meanwhile, as far as regards the port of Ne-egata, as it is not capable of being

entered by ships of foreign nations on account of the sand-banks at its entrance, and the American Minister was also of opinion that it is wanting in the capabilities requisite for a permanent place of trade, another suitable port ought to have been selected, and opened on the west coast, as it is stipulated. This has, however, hitherto been postponed, while the appointed time has already passed, because the selection could not be proceeded with, in consequence of the adverse state of wind and tide during the time of the search.

To take meanwhile into consideration the arrangement suitable to the present circumstances, the time might be expected, should the opening of the two ports and the two cities be postponed, when the national spirit will be appeased and slowly led, trade from time to time become regularly established, the price of things stand on an even scale, the old custom in like measure altered, and every one shall wish for the flourishing state of the intercourse with foreign Powers. In such a case, how shall it be possible for any difficulty to exist in opening the above-mentioned two ports and two cities? To take a simile: as the seaman avoids the contrary wind, and waits for a fair wind, so will not patiently to allow the time to pass, and to wait for the (favourable) period to accomplish the object, be an arrangement of necessity?

As Tsoosimanokami communicated the circumstances to you at an interview last year, and discussed the above-mentioned postponement of the time, a letter from His Majesty the Tycoon to Her Majesty the Queen shall be sent with this. And it is desired to defer the opening of the two ports and the two cities for the space of seven years, and to agree that they shall be opened, according to our calculation, at the end of the year of the approaching Hinoto-oo, corresponding to the year 1868 according to your calculation.

While waiting for the arrival of the time, the arrangement of affairs will, in general, speedily produce a satisfactory issue, without occasioning trouble. Should, however, the matter of necessity be urged, however just it may be, the evil result could not be averted; for such is the nature of the case. And what one person advises another is found unworthy (unsuitable by the person advised), but in everything which he himself originates he places importance, which is a common feeling among the people.

To follow thus for a short time the nature of the case and the popular feeling, not to force it in distress, but to enlighten it slowly, and to give every one the opportunity of waiting of his own accord for the arrival of the time, is just the above-mentioned advice. And certainly no other remedy will be found which will be so efficacious in the present conjuncture.

As, nevertheless, the postponement of the time stipulated in the Treaty is an unpleasant act, we have repeatedly, and in various ways, deliberated if no other remedy could be discovered; but the manner in which we must arrange the matter is only and simply according to the foregoing advice, which is not only for the interest of our Empire, but will also tend as a means adapted lastingly to secure our mutual friendship, and permanently to enjoy the benefit of trade. For that purpose a letter from His Majesty the Tycoon is sent to Her Majesty the Queen, and the before-mentioned postponement of the time is desired.

And as you are aware we have also already communicated the foregoing circumstances to the Prussian Envoy, who was recently here, and with whom we concluded a Treaty, from which the Article concerning the two ports and two cities was omitted. We, therefore, urgently desire your Excellency to take this into mature consideration; to ponder well over the necessity of the conjuncture, and the truth of our expressions, while reflecting on and comparing what was related to you by Tsoosimanokami at an interview last year with what your Excellency actually sees and learns; to give an exact account of it to Her Majesty the Queen; and so to arrange that our wish be complied with, to the continuance of our mutual friendship.

As, meanwhile, the foregoing has in the same manner been proposed to the Governments of the several Powers, it is desirable that it be taken into your consideration.

Proposed with respect and consideration, 21st day, 4th month, 1st year of Boon-kew (30th May, 1861).

(Signed)

KOODSI YAMATONO KAMI.
ANDO TSOOSIMANO KAMI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

Consul Vyse to Mr. Alcock.

Sir,

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

I HAVE the honour of forwarding, according to your instructions, my Trade Returns for the half-year of 1861, comparing them with the corresponding months of 1860, which I trust may prove correct and satisfactory.

Further, as the best comments on the state of trade at this port, I have the honour to inclose four letters from some of the leading merchants of the British community at Yokohama, giving their opinions thereon, together with the long letter of complaints brought by them in February last—none of which up to the present time have ever been redressed—against the Japanese Government, for the restrictions and prohibitions placed upon commercial transactions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 9.

Trade Returns of the Port of Kanagawa for the Half-year ending the 30th of June, 1861.

I.—A RETURN of the Number and Tonnage of Merchant-Vessels which Arrived and Departed from the Port of Kanagawa during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

Arrived.			Departed.		
Nationality.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Nationality.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	20	8,160	British	20	8,160
American	8	3,462	American	10	4,185
Dutch	2	472	Dutch	3	692
	30	12,094		33	13,097

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

II.—A RETURN of the Number of Merchant-Vessels, distinguishing their respective Flags, which Arrived at and Departed from the Port of Kanagawa, proceeding from or bound for the Ports and Places undermentioned, during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

	Arrived.			Departed.		
	British.	American.	Dutch.	British.	American.	Dutch.
London .. .	..	..	..	4	1	
Shanghai .. .	17	7	..	15	3	
Hong Kong .. .	..	1	1	..	3	2
Nagasaki .. .	3	..	1	1	..	
San Francisco .. .	..	..	..	..	2	
Amoy .. .	..	..	..	..	1	
	20	8	2	20	10	2

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

III.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Imported into the Port of Kanagawa in 20 British vessels of 8,160 tons, from the Countries and Places under-mentioned, during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	From what Places imported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.
4	Raw Cotton	2,720 bales.	Nagasaki and Shanghae.	8 21,757
2	Grey Shirtings	1,118 "		82,371
"	White ditto	184 "		13,281
"	Spotted ditto	63 "		10,624
"	Chintzes	88 "		7,073
"	Drills	193 "		3,603
"	Tafachelas (Dutch)	89 "		8,201
"	French velvets	37 "		1,947
"	Other cotton fabrics	2,243 "		56,038
"	Damasks	8 "		1,066
"	Brocades	26 "		3,152
"	Camlets	555 "		73,567
"	Spanish stripes	24 "		1,880
"	Medium cloths	21 "		5,739
"	Other woollen fabrics	4 "		819
"	Sugar	8 barrels		77
4	Medicines	387 boxes		8,784
"	Vermillion	14 "		1,135
"	Spelter	1,016 piculs		5,562
"	Tin plates	180 boxes		955
"	Glass ware	301 "		195
"	Miscellaneous	..		6,379
			Total ..	314,205

In Sterling, at 5s. per dollar = £78,551.

N.B.—Corrected declared value for the last half-year, 408,466 dollars, or £102,116. (*Vide* Explanatory Note upon Tables IX and X.)

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

IV.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Exported from the Port of Kanagawa in 20 British vessels of 8,160 tons, to the Places undermentioned, during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	To what Places exported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.
4	Raw silk	2,432 piculs	London, Shanghae, Hong Kong, San Francisco, and Amoy.	8 681,217
"	Tea	13,292 "		174,842
"	Oil	1,548 tubs		16,735
"	Copper	2,489 piculs		38,110
"	Saltpetre	903 "		7,369
"	Mushrooms	772 "		13,135
"	Lacquered ware	366 boxes		10,706
"	Timber	30,497 planks		6,189
"	Ginseng	40 piculs		9,499
"	Isinglass	122 "		6,901
"	Raw cotton	43 bales		3,378
"	Wax	24 piculs		287
"	Porcelain	669 packages		2,435
"	Sea-weed	8,115 piculs		10,601
"	Gall-nuts	406 "		1,732
"	Dried fish	682 "		5,202
"	Medicine	1,252 packages		3,898
"	Cotton pieces	32 boxes		2,550
"	Silk ditto	100 "		4,089
"	Paper	72 "		388
"	Iron	230 piculs		908
"	Seeds	68 "		114
"	Miscellaneous	..		5,339
				1,005,624

In Sterling, at 5s. per dollar = £251,406.

N.B.—Corrected declared value for last half-year, 1,327,423 dollars, or £331,856. (*Vide* Explanatory Note upon Tables IX and X.)

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

V.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Imported into the Port of Kanagawa in 8 American vessels of 3,462 tons, from the Places undermentioned, during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	From what Places imported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.
4	Raw cotton	1,926 bales	Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Nagasaki.	\$ 12,036
2	Grey shirtings	626 "		50,995
"	White shirtings	20 "		1,500
"	Spotted shirtings	25 "		3,054
"	Chintzes	92 "		6,911
"	Drills	250 "		7,660
"	French velvets	46 "		3,329
"	Other cotton fabrics	514 "		31,613
"	Damasks	12 "		1,431
"	Brocades	30 "		3,380
"	Camlets	103 "		20,468
"	Spanish stripes	19 "		2,763
"	Medium cloth	8 "		1,295
"	Other woollen fabrics	32 "		5,339
"	Sugar	418 "		1,333
4	Medicine	1,325 packages		9,668
"	Vermillion	161 "		14,768
"	Glass ware	100 boxes		370
2	Long ells	5 bales		533
4	Miscellaneous	..		9,281
			Total	187,777

In Sterling at 5s. per dollar = £46,944.

N.B.—Corrected declared value for last half-year 244,110 dollars, or £61,027. (*Vide* Explanatory Note upon Tables IX and X.)

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

VI.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Imported into the Port of Kanagawa in 3 Dutch vessels of 692 tons, from the Countries and Places undermentioned, during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	From what Places imported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.
4	Raw cotton	10 bales	Hong Kong, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam.	\$ 250
2	Chintzes	7 "		780
"	Tafechelas	43 "		8,471
"	French velvets	5 "		830
"	Other cotton fabrics	244 "		16,598
"	Camlets	7 "		1,045
"	Spanish stripes	2 "		200
"	Medium cloth	2 "		200
"	Other woollen fabrics	51 "		4,706
"	Sugar	200 piculs		666
4	Medicines	104 "		16,937
"	Spelter	263 "		4,296
"	Glass ware	39 boxes		602
"	Tiger	1 piece		800
"	Miscellaneous	..		8,752
			Total	65,133

In Sterling, at 5s. per dollar = £16,283.

N.B.—Corrected declared value for the last half-year, 84,672 dollars, or £21,168. (*Vide* Explanatory Note upon Tables IX and X.)

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

VII.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Exported from the Port of Kanagawa in 10 American vessels of 4,185 tons, to the Places undermentioned, during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	To what Places exported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.
4	Raw silk	162 piculs	London, Shanghai, Hong Kong, San Francisco, and Amoy.	8
"	Tea	1,984 "		58,973
"	Camphor	1 "		28,851
"	Copper	1,583 "		9
"	Saltpetre	267 "		25,862
"	Mushrooms	186 "		1,715
"	Lacquered ware	879 cases		2,853
"	Timber	22,402 planks		9,727
"	Ginseng	2 piculs		2,424
"	Isinglass	140 "		361
"	Raw cotton	4 boxes		2,121
"	Wax	202 piculs		213
"	Porcelain	483 packages		2,762
"	Sea-weed	5,457 piculs		1,755
"	Gall-nuts	47 "		6,603
"	Dried fish	746 "		411
"	Medicine	755 "		5,436
"	Cotton pieces	18 boxes		11,467
"	Silk ditto	9 "		647
"	Paper	69 bales		637
"	Seeds	20 packages		1,129
"	Rags	12,000 "		70
"	Miscellaneous .. .. .	.. .. .		8,000
				3,890
				175,416

In Sterling, at 5s. per dollar = £43,854.

N.B.—Corrected declared value for last half-year, 231,549 dollars, or £57,887. (*Vide* Explanatory Note upon Tables IX and X.)

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

VIII.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Exported at the Port of Kanagawa in 2 Dutch vessels of 472 tons, to the Places undermentioned, during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	To what Places exported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.
4	Raw silk	91 piculs	London, Shanghai, Hong Kong, San Francisco, and Amoy.	8
"	Tea	990 "		25,333
"	Copper	363 "		2,501
"	Saltpetre	285 "		5,395
"	Mushrooms	57 "		2,288
"	Lacquered ware	181 cases		592
"	Isinglass	35 piculs		837
"	Porcelain	3 packages		405
"	Sea-weed	732 piculs		550
"	Dried fish	46 "		1,080
"	Medicines	43 "		935
"	Silk pieces	1 package		302
"	Miscellaneous .. .. .	.. .. .		140
				9,361
				49,719

In Sterling, at 5s. per dollar = £12,429.

N.B.—Corrected declared value for last half-year, 65,629 dollars, or £16,407. (*Vide* Explanatory Note upon Tables IX and X.)

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

X.—A SYNOPSIS and Comparative Table of the Export Trade to Foreign Countries at the Port of Kanagawa during the half-year ending the 30th of June, 1861, specifying the Description and Quantities of Commodities, as well as their declared Value, and distinguishing the National Character of the Ships in which they were exported.

Commodities.	Quantities, and in what ships exported.			1861.		1860.	
	British.	American.	Dutch.	Aggregate Quantity Exported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.	Aggregate Quantity Exported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.
Ruw silk piculs	2,432	162	91	2,685	765,523	2,507	762,529
Tea	13,292	1,984	990	16,266	206,194	9,324	94,389
Oil tubs	1,548	..	..	1,548	16,735	65,205	226,427
Copper piculs	2,489	1,583	363	4,435	69,367	7,935	153,782
Saltpetre	903	267	285	1,455	11,372	1,580	4,750
Mushrooms	772	186	57	1,015	16,580	..	..
Lacquered ware .. boxes	366	879	181	1,421	21,270	1,752	11,711
Timber planks	30,497	22,402	..	52,899	8,613	..	..
Ginseng piculs	40	2	..	42	9,860	69	2,405
Isinglass	122	140	35	297	9,427	687	5,854
Raw cotton .. boxes	43	4	..	47	3,591	..	..
Wax piculs	24	202	..	226	3,049	933	14,669
Porcelain boxes	669	483	3	1,155	4,740	1,784	3,454
Seaweed piculs	8,115	5,457	732	14,304	18,284	13,929	19,952
Gallnuts	406	47	..	453	2,143	1,981	9,931
Dried fish	682	746	46	1,474	11,573	11,326	43,151
Medicine packages	1,252	755	43	2,050	15,667	11,178	41,812
Cotton pieces	32	18	..	50	3,197	267	11,216
Silk	100	9	1	110	4,866	251	30,220
Paper	72	69	..	141	1,517	..	..
Rags	..	12,000	..	12,000	8,000	..	..
Iron piculs	230	..	..	230	908	4,725	15,430
Seeds	68	20	..	88	184	66,404	70,433
Camphor	..	..	..	1	9	21	509
Shells bags	..	..	..	..	..	3,136	1,297
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	18,090	..	36,911
Total				..	1,230,759	..	1,559,832
In Sterling at 5s. per dollar. ..				..	£ 307,690	..	£ 389,958

N.B.—Corrected declared value for last half-year 1,624,601 dollars = £406,150. (*Vide* Explanatory Note upon Tables IX and X.)

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

X.—A SYNOPSIS and Comparative Table of the Import Trade from Foreign Countries at the Port of Kanagawa during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861, specifying the Description and Quantities of Commodities, as well as their declared Value, and distinguishing the National Character of the Ships in which they were imported.

Commodities.	Quantities and in what Ships imported.			1861.		1860.	
	British.	American.	Dutch.	Aggregate Quantity imported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.	Aggregate Quantity imported.	Declared Value in Mexican dollars.
Raw cotton bales	2,720	1,926	10	4,654	34,043	..	£
Grey shirtings	1,118	616	..	1,744	133,366	..	..
White ditto	184	20	..	204	14,781	15	18,659
Spotted ditto	63	25	..	88	13,678	..	..
Chintzes	88	92	7	187	14,764	30	3,162
Drills	193	250	..	443	11,263	..	..
Tafachelas (Dutch) ..	89	..	43	132	16,672	..	..
French velvets	37	46	5	88	6,106	35	4,700
Other cotton fabrics ..	2,243	514	244	3,001	104,267	707	39,903
Damasks	8	12	..	20	2,479	..	..

Commodities.	Quantities, and in what Ships imported.			1861.		1860.	
	British.	American.	Dutch.	Aggregate Quantity imported.	Declared value in Mexican dollars.	Average Quantity imported.	Declared value in Mexican dollars.
Brocades	26	30	..	56	\$ 6,532	..	\$
Camlets	555	103	7	665	95,080	202	28,466
Spanish stripes	24	19	..	43	4,843	..	..
Long ells	..	5	..	5	533	23	3,587
Medium cloth	21	8	2	31	7,234	..	..
Other woollen fabrics	4	32	51	87	10,864	83	15,174
Sugar barrels	8	418	200	626	2,126	..	..
Medicines .. packages	387	1,325	104	1,816	35,389	280	3,395
Vermillion .. piculs	14	161	..	175	15,903	..	..
Spelter	1,016	..	263	1,279	9,858	1,440	7,455
Tin-plates .. boxes	180	..	..	180	955	..	..
Glass-ware	301	100	39	440	1,167	..	..
Tiger piece	..	..	1	1	800	..	..
Japan wood	..	..	..	..	..	16,435	5,386
Handkerchiefs .. bales	..	..	..	..	..	24	2,652
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	24,412	..	6,005
Total				..	567,115	..	138,544
In Sterling, at 5s. per dollar £				..	141,779	..	34,636

N.B.—Corrected declared value for last half-year, 737,249 dollars = £184,312. (*Vide* Explanatory Note upon Tables IX and X.)

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

Note Explanatory of Tables IX and X.

THE total declared values for 1861, in Tables IX and X, are not in reality the actual declared values, as will be seen by the following explanation of the custom of transacting business with the native authorities.

A foreign trader, A, buys goods from a Japanese to the value of 135 dollars, in coin he pays; at the same time, according to the market value of dollars, he could pay that amount with 311 itzebous. When he goes to the Custom-house for a permit to ship his goods he declares them worth 311 itzebous; according to Treaty the Custom-house must regard this valuation not as 135 dollars, but as 100 dollars, upon which sum duty is paid.

It does not admit of doubt, therefore, that the values declared at the Custom-house in itzebous must be increased by 26 per cent. in order to get the actual declared values. In addition to this, about 6 per cent. might be added to the exports for undervaluation or false declarations, so that the corrected value of the exports for the half-year would be 1,624,600 dollars, or in sterling 406,150*l*.

On the same grounds the imports must be increased by 30 per cent., and thus corrected the actual declared value for the half-year ended the 30th June, 1861, would be 737,249 dollars, or 184,312*l*.

				1861.	1860.
				£	£
Imports	..	..	..	184,312	34,636
Exports	..	..	..	406,150	389,958
Total	..	..	..	590,462	424,594

British Consulate, Kanagawa,
August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

XI.—REGISTER of Foreign Vessels entering the Port of Kanagawa during the half-year ending the 30th June, 1861.

Name of Ship.	Size.	Flag.	Crew.	Ton- nage.	Whence coming.	Whither bound.	Date of Arrival.	Date of De- parture.
Fenna ..	Schooner	Dutch ..	10	150	Amsterdam ..	..	..	Sold.
Emma ..	Barque ..	American	14	450	Hong Kong ..	Hong Kong ..	Oct. 30	Jan. 6
Daniel Webster ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	11	273	San Francisco ..	Do. ..	Nov. 20	..
Medina ..	Ship ..	British ..	15	357	Shanghai ..	London ..	Jan. 17	Feb. 4
Cadiz ..	Steamer ..	Do. ..	100	481	Do. ..	Shanghai ..	" 24	" 2
Lanrick ..	Brig ..	Do. ..	37	283	Do. ..	Do. ..	" 31	" 5
Mary and Louisa ..	Barque ..	American	19	497	Do. ..	Do. ..	Feb. 2	" 13
Emma ..	Brig ..	British ..	9	121	Do. ..	Do. ..	" 11	" 22
Rover ..	Barque ..	American	13	350	Do. ..	Hong Kong ..	" 11	" 27
Neva ..	Schooner	British ..	16	90	Do. ..	Shanghai ..	" 13	Mar. 24
Henry Ellis ..	Ship ..	Do. ..	18	412	Do. ..	Do. ..	" 22	" 14
Horatio ..	Barque ..	American	20	460	Do. ..	Amoy ..	Mar. 5	" 16
Canton ..	Do. ..	British ..	16	429	Do. ..	London ..	" 6	Apr. 4
Scotland ..	Steamer ..	Do. ..	54	964	Nagasaki ..	Shanghai ..	" 7	Mar. 22
Lanrick ..	Brig ..	Do. ..	32	283	Shanghai ..	Do. ..	" 11	" 17
Onward ..	Barque ..	American	11	300	Do. ..	Do. ..	" 11	" 29
Vision ..	Ship ..	Do. ..	25	1,092	Do. ..	London ..	" 17	May 15
Fawn ..	Brig ..	British ..	23	164	Do. ..	Shanghai ..	" 18	Apr. 8
James Lemon ..	Barque ..	Do. ..	17	485	Do. ..	London ..	" 25	May 5
Emma ..	Brig ..	Do. ..	10	121	Do. ..	Shanghai ..	Apr. 15	Apr. 24
Scotland ..	Steamer ..	Do. ..	54	964	Nagasaki ..	Do. ..	" 19	May 1
Henry Ellis ..	Ship ..	Do. ..	15	412	Shanghai ..	Do. ..	" 24	" 12
Onward ..	Barque ..	American	11	330	Do. ..	San Francisco ..	May 6	" 26
Chusan ..	Steamer ..	British ..	108	529	Do. ..	Shanghai ..	" 6	" 12
Fiery Cross ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	120	444	Do. ..	Do. ..	" 10	" 18
Rover ..	Barque ..	American	14	758	Hong Kong ..	Hong Kong ..	" 15	June 1
Fiery Cross ..	Steamer ..	British ..	120	444	Shanghai ..	Shanghai ..	June 2	" 11
Martha Theresia ..	Barque ..	Dutch ..	14	271	Rotterdam ..	Do. ..	" 15	July 2
Dom Pedro II ..	Do. ..	American	12	250	Hong Kong ..	Hong Kong ..	" 19	" 1
Kent ..	Ship ..	British ..	15	396	Shanghai ..	London ..	" 22	" 27
Henriette Louisa ..	Schooner	Dutch ..	10	201	Hong Kong ..	Hong Kong ..	" 23	" 13
Burman ..	Barque ..	British ..	20	319	Shanghai ..	Shanghai ..	" 26	" 18
Fiery Cross ..	Steamer ..	Do. ..	120	444	Do. ..	Do. ..	" 27	" 4

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

XII.—A RETURN showing the Visits of British Ships of War to the Port of Kanagawa in Japan, from July 1859 to July 1861.

Name of Ship.	Guns.	Crew.	Where from.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Departure.	Where bound.
Highflyer ..	18	200	Shanghai ..	Sept. 21 ..	Sept. 27 ..	Hakodadi.
Cruiser ..	17	160	Yeddo ..	Jan. 24 ..	Feb. 1 ..	Nagasaki.
Roebuck ..	6	112	Nagasaki ..	Feb. 4 ..	" 7 ..	Nagasaki.
Camilla ..	16	160	Ditto ..	" 28 ..	Mar. 8 ..	Hakodadi.
Pioneer ..	6	110	Ditto ..	Dec. 15 ..	Dec. 24 ..	Shanghai.
Impérieuse ..	51	530	Ditto ..	" 24 ..	" 26 ..	Yeddo.
Encounter ..	14	190	Ditto ..	" 24 ..	" 26 ..	Yeddo.
Scout ..	21	270	Ditto ..	" 24 ..	" 26 ..	Yeddo.
Ringdove ..	6	110	Shanghai ..	June 21 ..	" ..	" ..
	155	1,842				

Kanagawa, August 15, 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

Inclosure 5 in No. 9.

Trade Returns of the Port of Kanagawa for the year 1860.

NOTIFICATION.

RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, C.B., Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary, Minister Plenipotentiary, and Consul-General in Japan, is pleased to direct the publication of the following Kanagawa Trade Returns for the year 1860, for public information.

By order,
Her Britannic Majesty's Legation, (Signed) ABEL A. J. GOWER.
Yeddo, March 14, 1861.

I.—A RETURN of the Number and Tonnage of Merchant-Vessels which Arrived at and Departed from the Port of Kanagawa during the year ending the 31st December, 1860, distinguishing the Countries to which they belonged.

Arrived.			Departed.		
Under what Colours.	Number of vessels.	Tonnage.	Under what Colours.	Number of vessels.	Tonnage.
British	52	21,724	British	52	21,724
American	35	13,739	American	37	13,985
Dutch	14	4,692	Dutch	15	4,642
French	2	750	French	2	750
	103	40,905		106	41,101

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

IA.—A RETURN of the Number and Tonnage of Hired Transports which Arrived at and Departed from the Port of Kanagawa, distinguishing their Flags, during the year ending the 31st of December, 1860.

Arrived.			Departed.		
Under what Colours.	Number of vessels.	Tonnage.	Under what Colours.	Number of vessels.	Tonnage.
British	19	15,244	British	19	15,244
French	4	2,431	French	4	2,431
	23	17,675		23	17,675

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

II.—A RETURN of the Number of Merchant-Vessels, distinguishing their respective Flags, which Cleared at the Custom-house of Kanagawa, proceeding from or bound for the Ports and Places undermentioned, during the year ending the 31st December, 1860.

Ports and Places.	Arrived.				Departed.			
	British.	American.	Dutch.	French.	British.	American.	Dutch.	French.
London	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	
Shanghai	37	22	10	..	26	20	12	1
Hong Kong	9	4	..	2	12	9	1	1
Nagasaki	5	1	..	..	7	..		
Hakodadi	1	1	2	..	3	1		
San Francisco	..	6	..	..	..	5		
Batavia	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	
Sandwich Islands	..	1	..	..	..	1		
Lima	..	..	..	..	1	..		
	52	35	14	2	52	37*	15*	2

* Some ships which arrived in 1859 departed in 1860; hence the discrepancy.

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

III.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Imported into the Port of Kanagawa, in 52 British vessels of 21,724 tons, from the Countries and Places undermentioned, during the year ending the 31st December, 1860.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	From what countries and places imported.	Estimated value in Sterling at 4s. 2d. exchange.		
				£	s.	d.
2	Cottons—					
"	White shirtings	704 bales	Shanghai,	13,912	1	8
"	Grey "	1,462 "		26,400	12	4
"	Chintzes	222 "		5,723	15	0
"	Drills	384 "		3,362	14	2
"	Handkerchiefs	34 "		1,026	5	0
"	Velvets	84 "		2,302	5	0
"	T-Cloths	189 "		3,972	5	10
"	Other cotton fabrics	792 "		15,343	15	0
"	Woollens—		Hong Kong,			
"	Spanish stripes, &c.	56 "		2,037	10	0
"	Long ells	144 "		3,365	8	4
"	Camlets	1,081 "		38,512	10	0
"	Other woollen fabrics	380 "	Nagasaki.	10,330	12	6
"	Metals—					
"	Spelter	890 piculs		1,591	9	2
4	Miscellaneous					
"	Glassware, &c.	206 cases		158	6	8
"	Medicine	553 piculs		2,798	3	6
"	Sapanwood	1,000 "		1,041	13	4
"	Miscellaneous	324 "		1,005	16	8
			Total ..	132,885	4	2

Remark.—The declared value of the Imports is at least one-third less than the actual value, which might be taken at from 177,000*l.* to 200,000*l.*

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

IV.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of the Merchandize Exported from the Port of Kanagawa in 52 British vessels of 21,724 tons, to the Countries and Places under-mentioned, during the year ending 31st December, 1860.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	From what Countries and Places Exported.	Estimated value in Sterling at 4s 2d. exchange.
4	Camphor	26½ piculs		£ 115 17 0
"	Charcoal	6,701 "		225 12 6
"	Copper	6,581 "		25,363 19 2
"	Cotton (manufactured) ..	355 boxes		3,642 10 0
"	Fish (dried, &c.)	13,063 piculs		14,365 16 8
"	Flour	7,999 "		2,450 8 4
"	Gall-nuts	1,490 "	London,	1,640 12 6
"	Ginseng	146 "		2,920 8 4
"	Iron	4,734 "	Shanghai,	3,268 6 8
"	Isinglass	737 boxes		2,501 13 4
"	Lacquered ware	1,855 "	Hong Kong,	3,607 18 4
"	Medicines	10,081 piculs		7,567 10 0
"	Oil	41,218 "	Nagasaki,	21,021 13 4
"	Porcelain	308 boxes		190 12 6
"	Saltpetre	1,310 piculs	Hakodadi,	661 5 0
"	Seaweed	22,024 "		7,423 10 10
"	Seeds	38,439 "	and	15,294 5 4
"	Shells	3,546 "		328 10 10
"	Silk (raw)	4,175½ "	Lima.	268,777 1 8
"	" (manufactured)	113 boxes		3,296 9 2
"	Sulphur	250 piculs		40 0 0
"	Sundries	9,780 "		11,776 19 2
"	Tea	12,788 "		34,726 0 10
"	Verdigris	40½ "		57 18 4
"	Wax (vegetable, &c.) ..	233 "		549 3 4
			Total ..	431,814 3

Remark.—The total 431,814*l.* is the declared value as obtained through the Custom-house; but the real value is at least one-twentieth greater, and might be set down at 457,000*l.*, or nearly half a-million pounds sterling. The reduction of Mexican dollars into Sterling has been done at 4*s.* 2*d.*, and this would allow a still higher estimate.

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

V.—STATEMENT of Import and Export Duties and Custom-house or Shipping Dues paid by Foreign Vessels in the Port of Kanagawa, during the year ending 31st December, 1860.

Nation.	Import Duty.	Export Duty.	Custom-house Dues.	Total.
	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.	£ c.
American	15,480 38	48,167 86	1,406 50	65,054 74
French	730 0	1,445 57	140 50	2,316 7
Dutch	14,916 40	29,264 47	642 50	44,823 37
Total	31,126 78	78,877 90	2,189 50	122,194 18
In Sterling, at 4 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> ..	6.484 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i>	16.432 <i>l.</i> 17 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i>	456 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i>	23,373 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

VI.—STATEMENT of Import and Export Duties and Shipping Dues paid by British Vessels
in the Port of Kanagawa, during the year ending the 31st December, 1860.

Vessel.	Import Duty.		Export Duty.		Shipping Dues.		Total.	
	£	c.	£	c.	£	c.	£	c.
Glengariff	..	..	812	52	34	0	846	52
Azof	120	0	1,333	46	50	50	1,503	96
Talca	..	..	324	73	25	0	139	73
Remi	2	0	1,518	54	53	50	1,574	4
Dayspring	..	..	..	..	26	50	26	50
Sir Geo. Pollock	..	..	900	0	29	50	920	50
Troas	..	..	6,294	0	34	0	6,328	0
Claro	..	..	892	45	37	0	929	45
Medina	..	..	609	46	37	0	646	46
Koh-i-noor	1,135	43	417	20	40	0	1,592	63
Azof	336	60	2,172	44	41	50	2,550	54
Broadwater	..	..	2,031	24	43	0	2,074	24
Henry Ellis	..	..	875	51	28	0	903	51
Maggie	..	..	407	17	29	50	436	67
Excelsior	251	50	1,719	0	64	50	2,034	50
Dayspring	..	..	..	..	22	0	22	0
Eliza Mary	38	75	990	46	40	0	1,069	21
Celestial	127	50	1,061	74	47	50	1,236	74
Azof	202	0	3,658	78	41	50	3,902	28
Witch of the Seas	..	..	203	82	28	0	231	82
Medina	..	..	616	45	31	0	647	45
Troas	81	80	8,216	44	58	0	8,356	28
Sea Witch	..	..	411	42	55	0	466	42
Eliza Mary	70	0	1,395	71	43	0	1,508	71
Georgiana	45	0	4,297	13	41	50	2,383	63
Excelsior	669	10	2,290	38	40	0	4,999	48
Lady Elizabeth	120	0	2,588	34	38	50	2,746	84
Celestial	145	32	3,809	14	43	0	3,497	46
Lanrick	160	0	2,282	76	34	0	2,476	76
Lucknow	409	0	3,530	11	39	50	3,998	61
Challenger	3,545	25	6,500	0	74	50	10,119	75
Neva	126	50	441	80	31	0	599	30
Witch of the Seas	68	0	224	39	32	50	324	89
Medina	..	..	371	56	29	50	401	6
Pruth	335	15	..	..	25	0	360	15
Ivera	..	..	100	0	16	50	116	50
Neville	1,514	38	6,986	58	83	50	8,584	46
Henry Ellis	1,075	69	6,039	47	67	0	7,182	16
England	3,853	74	1,178	18	71	50	5,103	42
Lanrick	1,104	51	399	88	34	0	1,538	39
Neva	1,175	36	1,665	74	38	50	2,879	60
Keepsake	1,104	51	339	88	50	50	1,494	89
Lady Elizabeth	..	..	1,219	65	58	0	1,277	65
Marmora	1,085	22	829	38	37	0	1,951	80
Ivera	4,134	52	591	22	55	0	4,780	70
Medina	484	42	1,936	60	52	0	2,473	2
Araby Maid	188	0	902	18	50	50	1,140	68
Eliza Mary	3,002	84	2,104	94	53	50	5,161	28
Ocean Gem	3,456	2	10,095	62	83	50	13,635	14
England	3,505	28	2,404	99	83	50	5,993	97
Henry Ellis	2,392	43	1,920	37	62	50	4,375	30
Granada	8	75	2,514	71	49	0	2,572	46
Total	36,074	57	103,635	54	2,334	0	142,044	11
In Sterling, at 4s. 2d. ..	7,515l. 10s. 8½d.		21,590l. 14s. 9d.		486l. 5s.		29,592l. 10s. 5½d.	

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul,

VII.—A SYNOPSIS Table of the Import Trade from Foreign Countries at the Port of Kanagawa during the year ending the 31st December, 1860, specifying the Description and Quantities of Commodities, as well as their estimated Value, and distinguishing the National Character of the Ships in which they were imported.

Commodities.	Quantities, and in what Ships imported.				Aggregate Quantity Imported.	Estimated Value in Sterling at 4s. 2d.		
	British.	American.	Dutch.	French.		£	s.	d.
Cottons—								
White shirtings .. bales	704	200	5	..	999	21,334	3	4
Grey "	1,462	352	25	..	1,839	34,720	16	6
Chintzes "	222	89	43	..	354	8,516	10	0
Drills "	384	175	..	..	559	4,731	9	2
Handkerchiefs "	34	24	..	..	58	1,787	1	8
Velvets "	84	28	1	..	163	4,006	8	0
T-cloths "	189	32	15	..	236	4,876	9	2
Other cotton fabrics "	992	77	42	397	1,708	24,063	15	0
Wool—								
Spanish stripes, &c. "	56	10	..	..	66	2,456	17	6
Long ells "	144	31	..	..	175	4,392	5	10
Camlets "	1,081	420	40	..	1,541	58,971	14	2
Other woollen fabrics "	380	22	18	2	422	12,021	0	10
Metals—								
Spelter piculs	890	754	..	90	1,734	2,390	0	0
Miscellaneous—								
Glass ware cases	206	..	1,040	..	1,246	1,909	3	4
Medicines "	553	83	128	..	764	3,761	11	0
Sapanwood sticks	1,000	2,000	..	16,435	19,435	2,288	15	0
Miscellaneous "	324	356	369	..	1,049	4,795	13	6
Total ..						197,023	14	0

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

VIII.—A SYNOPSIS Table of the Export Trade to Foreign Countries at the Port of Kanagawa, during the year ending the 31st December, 1860, specifying the Description and Quantities of Commodities, as well as their estimated Value, and distinguishing the National Character of the Ships in which they were exported.

Commodities.	Quantities, and in what Ships imported.				Aggregate Quantity Exported.	Estimated Value in Sterling at 4s. 2d.		
	British.	American.	Dutch.	French.		£	s.	d.
Camphor piculs	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	..	..	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	131	1	2
Charcoal "	6,701	4,469	4,000	..	15,170	779	11	8
Copper "	6,581	2,567 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,488	539	11,175 $\frac{1}{2}$	43,593	6	8
Cotton (manufactured) .. boxes	355	9	25	2	391	4,203	15	0
Fish (dried) piculs	1,363	4,180 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,307	562	8,332 $\frac{1}{2}$	19,887	10	0
Flour "	7,999	9,744	3,745	565	22,053	7,261	0	10
Gall-nuts "	1,490	545	282	..	2,317	2,405	4	2
Ginseng "	146	10	2	..	158	3,039	11	8
Iron "	4,734	2,871	1,737	1	9,343	5,129	5	10
Isinglass "	739	197	566	..	1,502	4,557	11	2
Lacquered ware boxes	1,855	1,513	118	14	3,500	5,202	1	8
Medicine piculs	10,081	2,416	1,001	735	14,233	11,947	14	2
Oil "	41,218	27,623	5,093	531	74,465	45,152	1	8
Porcelain boxes	308	1,318	619	..	2,245	939	15	10
Saltpetre piculs	1,310	270	173	173	1,926	1,792	18	4
Seaweed "	22,024	2,757	904	365	26,050	9,141	0	10
Seeds "	38,439	29,384	7,340	2,069	77,232	24,406	2	10
Shells "	3,546	20	..	90	3,656	343	19	2
Silk (raw) "	4,175 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,415 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,112	..	7,703 $\frac{1}{4}$	540,533	19	2
„ (manufactured) .. boxes	113	125	50	37	325	8,096	14	2
Sulphur piculs	250	..	..	..	250	40	0	0
Sundries "	9,780	3,921	614	405	14,720	17,482	11	8
Tea "	12,788	9,145	1,919	..	23,852	64,260	16	8
Verdigris "	40 $\frac{1}{4}$	31	..	..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	114	3	4
Wax (vegetable, &c.) "	233	716	138	45	1,132	3,270	4	2
Total ..						823,812	4	10

Remark.—The declared value of the imports is believed, by the most experienced merchants at this port, to be at least one-third less than the invoice value; and the exports to be, in like manner, declared one-twentieth under the buying price. On this hypothesis the imports would amount to 263,000*l.*, and the exports to 865,200*l.*

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

IX.—A RETURN of British Trade at the Port of Kanagawa during the year ending the
31st December, 1860.

ARRIVED.

Name of Vessel.	Date of Entry.	Ton- nage.	No. of Crew.	Where from.	Nature of Cargo.	Value of Cargo.
	1859					£ s. d.
1. Glengariff ..	Dec.	404	12	Shanghai.	Ballast.	
	1860					
2. Azof ..	Jan. 6	437	110	Nagasaki.	Woollen manufactures..	854 3 4
3. Talca ..	" 6	667	19	Hong Kong	Ballast.	
4. Sir Geo. Pollock.	" 8	630	25	Shanghai.	Ditto.	
5. Dayspring ..	" 8	430	19	do. ..	Ditto.	
6. Troas ..	" 17	630	21	do. ..	Ditto.	
7. Remi..	" 17	322	54	do. ..	Woollens	8 6 8
8. Claro..	" 24	401	14	do. ..	Ballast.	
9. Medina ..	Feb. 3	357	16	do. ..	Ditto.	
10. Koh-i-noor ..	" 3	303	13	do. ..	Ditto.	
11. Azof ..	" 19	437	112	Nagasaki.	Woollens and sundries..	628 19 2
12. Broadwater ..	" 13	571	21	Shanghai.	Ballast.	
13. Henry Ellis ..	" 14	412	17	do. ..	Ditto.	
14. Maggie ..	" 18	335	14	do. ..	Ditto.	
15. Excelsior ..	" 20	462	23	do. ..	Cottons and sundries ..	1,047 18 4
16. Dayspring ..	Mar. 14	630	19	Hakodadi.	Ballast.	
17. Eliza Mary ..	Feb. 28	126	15	Shanghai.	Ditto.	
18. Celestial ..	Mar. 15	438	20	do. ..	Spelter and sundries ..	456 5 0
19. Azof ..	" 29	437	120	Nagasaki.	Cottons	815 12 6
20. Witch of the Seas	Apr. 2	391	16	Shanghai.	Ballast.	
21. Medina ..	" 5	357	19	do. ..	Ditto.	
22. Troas ..	" 1	630	20	do. ..	Cottons and spelter ..	340 16 8
23. Sea Witch ..	" 23	373	29	do. ..	Ballast.	
24. Eliza Mary ..	May 4	126	13	do. ..	Cottons and sundries ..	391 13 4
25. Georgiana ..	Apr. 12	445	18	do. ..	Ballast.	
26. Excelsior ..	May 10	462	28	do. ..	Cottons and woollens ..	2,787 18 4
27. Lady Elizabeth ..	" 13	467	18	do. ..	Ballast.	
28. Celestial ..	" 18	438	25	do. ..	Ditto.	
29. Lanrick ..	June 18	283	40	do. ..	Ditto.	
30. Lucknow ..	" 1	401	36	do. ..	Camlets, medicines, and sundries .	2,904 7 6
31. Challenger ..	" 23	698	30	do. ..	Woollens, grey shirtings, camlets, velvets, &c.	12,209 7 6
32. Neva..	July 7	90	30	do. ..	Spanish stripes, camlets, grey shirtings, &c.	2,226 13 4
33. Witch of the Seas	" 5	391	12	Hong Kong	Ballast.	
34. Medina ..	" 7	357	30	do. ..	Ditto.	
35. Pruth ..	Aug. 6	363	16	Shanghai.	Chintzes, camlets, grey shirtings, &c.	605 16 8
36. Ivera..	July 9	388	20	Hong Kong	Sapan wood and sundries ..	1,104 3 4
37. Neville ..	" 24	715	25	Shanghai.	Grey shirtings, T-cloth, and sundries	1,704 3 4
38. Henry Ellis ..	Aug. 31	412	28	Hong Kong	Cottons, medicines, and sundries .	820 12 6
39. England ..	Oct. 4	746	71	Nagasaki..	White & grey shirtings and camlets	16,586 5 0
40. Lanrick ..	" 10	283	30	Shanghai.	Camlets, woollens, velvets, &c. ..	7,614 7 6
41. Neva..	" 18	90	15	do. ..	Cottons, camlets, velvets, &c. ..	3,736 0 10
42. Keepsake ..	" 10	330	21	Hong Kong	Camlets, grey shirtings, and sundries	4,476 13 4
43. Lady Elizabeth..	Sept. 1	467	26	do. ..	Ballast.	
44. Marmora ..	Oct. 30	363	20	Nagasaki..	Camlets, grey shirtings, and sundries	5,040 12 6
45. Ivera..	" 30	388	15	Shanghai.	Grey shirtings, camlets, and T-cloth	16,791 9 2
46. Medina ..	Nov. 4	357	29	Hong Kong	Woollens, &c. ..	20 16 8
47. Araby Maid ..	Oct. 22	365	17	do. ..	Medicines, &c. ..	100 0 0
48. Eliza Mary ..	Nov. 6	126	10	Shanghai.	White & grey shirtings, camlets, &c.	13,747 14 2
49. Ocean Gem ..	Oct. 16	324	17	do. ..	Ditto	13,764 7 6
50. England ..	Nov. 26	746	68	do. ..	Ditto	12,453 6 8
51. Henry Ellis ..	" 30	412	28	do. ..	Camlets, grey shirtings, &c. ..	9,646 13 4
52. Granada ..	Dec. 17	678	100	do. ..	Ballast.	
Total ..	..	21,724	1,582	..	.. ..	£ 132,885 4 2

Remark.—The dollar is reduced to sterling at 4s. 2d.

DEPARTED.

Name of Vessel.	Date of Clearance.	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Where bound.	Nature of Cargo.	Value of Cargo.		
	1860					£	s.	d.
1. Glengariff ..	Jan. 14	404	12	Hong Kong	Raw silk, oil, and sundries ..	3,750	0	0
2. Azof ..	" 14	437	110	Nagasaki..	Ditto ..	5,110	12	6
3. Talca ..	" 21	667	19	Hong Kong	Raw silk, medicine, and sundries..	1,177	1	8
4. Sir Geo. Pollock.	Feb. 4	630	25	Shanghai.	Oil, tea, and sundries ..	6,850	0	0
5. Dayspring ..	Jan. 21	430	19	Hakodadi .	Oil, fish, iron, and sundries ..	14,000	0	0
6. Troas ..	Feb. 6	630	21	Shanghai.	Raw silk, oil, tea, fish, &c. ..	34,011	18	4
7. Remi..	Jan. 21	322	54	do. ..	Raw silk, oil, copper, &c. ..	5,819	3	4
8. Claro..	Feb. 10	401	14	Hong Kong	Raw silk, copper, fish, &c. ..	4,435	4	2
9. Medina ..	" 22	357	16	Shanghai.	Oil, fish, seaweed, and sundries ..	1,913	6	8
10. Koh-i-noor ..	" 28	303	13	do. ..	Oil, copper, and sundries ..	1,970	0	0
11. Azof ..	" 27	437	112	Nagasaki..	Raw silk, copper, iron, &c. ..	5,524	3	4
12. Broadwater ..	Mar. 6	571	21	Shanghai.	Raw silk, oil, fish, seeds, &c. ..	7,229	15	10
13. Henry Ellis ..	" 10	412	17	Hong Kong	Silk pieces, copper, and sundries..	3,786	17	6
14. Maggie ..	" 17	335	14	do. ..	Medicines, seeds, and sundries ..	1,607	1	8
15. Excelsior ..	" 17	462	23	Shanghai.	Raw silk, oil, seaweed, &c. ..	7,780	16	8
16. Dayspring ..	" 17	630	19	do. ..	Ballast.			
17. Eliza Mary ..	" 21	126	15	do. ..	Raw silk, copper, and medicines..	4,078	15	0
18. Celestial ..	Apr. 5	438	20	do. ..	Raw silk, oil, and sundries ..	4,450	12	6
19. Azof ..	" 6	437	120	Nagasaki .	Raw silk, oil, and cotton piece goods	10,584	7	6
20. Witch of the Seas	" 15	391	16	Hong Kong	Medicines, seeds, and sundries ..	2,106	13	4
21. Medina ..	" 29	357	19	do. ..	Raw silk, copper, seeds, &c. ..	2,754	3	4
22. Troas ..	May 4	630	20	London ..	Raw silk, oil, and sundries ..	25,876	0	10
23. Sea Witch ..	" 14	373	29	Hong Kong	Medicine, copper, and sundries ..	1,973	6	8
24. Eliza Mary ..	" 16	126	13	Shanghai.	Raw silk, oil, tea, &c. ..	7,865	8	4
25. Georgiana ..	" 16	445	18	London ..	Raw silk, oil, and sundries ..	7,691	0	10
26. Excelsior ..	" 23	462	28	Shanghai.	Raw silk, oil, tea, and iron ..	7,283	19	2
27. Lady Elizabeth..	" 31	467	18	Hong Kong	Oil, copper, seeds, and flour ..	4,336	17	6
28. Celestial ..	June 13	438	25	do. ..	Raw silk, copper, seeds, and flour.	10,298	10	10
29. Lanrick ..	July 23	283	40	Shanghai.	Raw silk, copper, tea, and sundries	8,977	5	10
30. Lucknow ..	June 26	401	36	do. ..	Raw silk, tea, nitre, and sundries .	13,788	19	0
31. Challenger ..	July 16	698	30	do. ..	Raw silk, tea, iron, and isinglass..	27,615	0	0
32. Neva ..	" 16	90	30	do. ..	Tea, isinglass, and sundries ..	1,136	0	10
33. Witch of the Seas	" 19	391	12	Hong Kong	Flour, seeds, and sundries ..	999	3	4
34. Medina ..	" 23	357	30	Hakodadi .	Copper, flour, and sundries ..	1,089	11	8
35. Pruth ..	Aug. 7	363	16	do. ..	Ballast.			
36. Ivera..	" 4	388	20	Shanghai.	Sundries ..	4,644	13	6
37. Neville ..	Sept. 7	715	25	do. ..	Raw silk, copper, tea, and isinglass	24,495	12	6
38. Henry Ellis ..	Oct. 3	412	28	do. ..	Tea, silk, copper, and sundries ..	26,700	8	4
39. England ..	" 15	746	71	Nagasaki..	Raw silk, lacquered ware, and sundries	4,898	10	10
40. Lanrick ..	" 21	283	30	Shanghai.	Raw silk, copper, tea, seeds, &c. ..	7,678	6	8
41. Neva..	" 30	90	15	do. ..	Raw silk, tea, ginseng, and sundries	8,483	6	8
42. Keepsake ..	" 24	330	21	do. ..	Raw silk, tea and sundries ..	3,252	1	8
43. Lady Elizabeth..	Nov. 6	467	26	Hong Kong	Cotton goods, tea, silk, &c. ..	4,251	5	0
44. Marmora ..	" 11	363	20	Nagasaki..	Tea, silk, and sundries..	4,883	15	0
45. Ivera..	" 23	388	15	Shanghai.	Ditto ..	4,691	13	4
46. Medina ..	" 24	357	29	do. ..	Ditto ..	7,868	19	2
47. Araby Maid ..	" 25	365	17	Lima ..	Oil, tea, isinglass, &c. ..	3,666	17	6
48. Eliza Mary ..	Dec. 4	126	10	Shanghai.	Raw silk, tea, and sundries ..	8,229	3	4
49. Ocean Gem ..	" 5	324	17	London ..	Raw silk, copper, tea, &c. ..	36,213	10	10
50. England ..	" 17	746	68	Nagasaki..	Ditto ..	14,477	14	2
51. Henry Ellis ..	" 26	412	28	Shanghai.	Silk, copper, tea, and ginseng ..	8,789	11	8
52. Granada ..	" 29	678	100	Nagasaki..	Silk, ginseng and sundries ..	10,317	10	0
Total ..	..	21,724	1,582	..	.. ..	£	431,814	3 2

Remark.—The dollar is reduced to sterling at 4s. 2d.

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

X.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Imported into the Port of Kanagawa, in 35 American vessels of 13,739 tons, from the Countries and Places undermentioned, during the year 1860.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	From what Countries and Places Imported.	Estimated Value in Sterling at 4s. 2d. at Exchange.
2	Cottons—			£ s. d.
"	White shirtings	200 bales	Shanghai, Hong Kong, Nagasaki, San Francisco, and Sandwich Islands,	7,317 18 4
"	Grey "	352 "		7,815 0 0
"	Chintzes	89 "		2,049 0 0
"	Drills	175 "		1,368 15 0
"	Handkerchiefs	24 "		760 16 8
"	Velvets.. ..	78 "		1,670 16 8
"	T-Cloths	32 "		602 1 8
"	Other cotton fabrics	277 "		5,970 16 8
"	Woollen Goods—			
"	Spanish stripes, &c.	10 "		419 7 6
"	Long ells	31 "	San Francisco, and Sandwich Islands,	1,026 17 6
"	Camlets	420 "		18,791 9 2
"	Other woollen fabrics	22 "		1,247 18 4
"	Metals—			
"	Spelter	754 piculs		692 10 0
4	Miscellaneous—			
"	Glassware, &c. .. ..	.. ..		.. ..
"	Medicines	83 piculs		171 17 6
"	Sapan wood	2,000 sticks		125 0 0
"	Miscellaneous	356 piculs		1,797 10 0
				£51,827 15 0

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

XI.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Exported from the Port of Kanagawa, in 37 American vessels of 13,985 tons, to the Countries and Places undermentioned, during the year ending 31st December, 1860.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	To what Countries and Places Exported.	Estimated Value in Sterling at 4s. 2d. Exchange.	
4	Camphor	4 piculs	London, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Hakodadi, San Francisco, and the Sand- wich Islands.	£ s. d.	
"	Charcoal	4,469 "		15 4 2	
"	Copper	2,567 $\frac{1}{4}$ "		537 5 10	
"	Cotton goods	9 boxes		9,899 15 10	
"	Fish	4,180 $\frac{1}{2}$ piculs		99 11 8	
"	Flour	9,744 "		3,291 9 2	
"	Gall-nuts	545 "		2,440 16 8	
"	Ginseng	10 "		482 5 10	
"	Iron	2,871 "		141 0 10	
"	Isinglass	197 "		744 11 8	
"	Lacquered ware	1,513 boxes		586 0 10	
"	Medicines	2,416 piculs		1,178 2 6	
"	Oil	27,623 "		2,171 5 0	
"	Porcelain	1,318 boxes		19,722 5 10	
"	Saltpetre	270 piculs		562 1 8	
"	Seaweed	2,757 "		327 1 8	
"	Seeds	29,384 "		952 5 10	
"	Shells	20 "		6,836 17 6	
"	Silk (raw)	2,415 $\frac{3}{4}$ "		4 3 4	
"	" (manufactured)	125 boxes		189,714 7 6	
"	Sulphur .. ..	.. ..		3,060 16 8	
"	Sundries	3,921 boxes		.. ..	
"	Tea	9,145 piculs		3,639 3 4	
"	Verdigris	31 "		24,306 17 6	
"	Wax (vegetable, &c.)	716 "		56 5 0	
					908 2 6
				£271,677 18 4	

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

XII.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Imported into the Port of Kanagawa, in 14 Dutch vessels of 4,692 tons, from the Countries and Places under-mentioned, during the year ending the 31st December, 1860.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	From what Countries and Places Imported.	Estimated Value in Sterling at 4s. 2d. Exchange.
2	Cottons—			£ s. d.
"	White shirtings	5 bales	Shanghae, Hakodadi, and Batavia.	104 3 4
"	Grey "	25 "		505 4 2
"	Chintzes.	43 "		743 15 0
"	Velvets.. ..	1 "		33 6 8
"	T-cloths.	15 "		302 1 8
"	Other cotton fabrics ..	42 "		1,384 11 8
"	Woollens—			
"	Camlets.	40 "		1,667 15 0
"	Other woollen fabrics ..	18 "		290 8 4
4	Miscellaneous—			
"	Glassware, &c.	1,040 cases		1,750 16 8
"	Medicine	128 "		791 10 0
"	Miscellaneous	369 "		1,992 6 10
			Total ..	£9,565 19 4

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

XIII.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Exported from the Port of Kanagawa, in 15 Dutch vessels of 4,642 tons, to the Countries and Places under-mentioned, during the year ending the 31st December, 1860.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	To what Countries and Places exported.	Estimated Value in Sterling at 4s. 2d. Exchange.
				£ s. d.
4	Camphor		London, Shanghae, Hong Kong, and Batavia.	
"	Charcoal	4,000 piculs		16 13 4
"	Copper	1,488 "		6,041 13 4
"	Cotton (manufactured) ..	25 boxes		370 0 0
"	Fish (dried, &c.)	2,307 piculs		1,637 10 0
"	Flour	3,745 "		2,176 13 4
"	Gall-nuts	282 "		282 5 10
"	Ginseng	2 "		78 2 6
"	Iron	1,737 boxes		1,104 17 6
"	Isinglass	566 "		1,470 0 0
"	Lacquered ware	118 "		334 15 10
"	Medicines	1,001 piculs		1,480 8 8
"	Oil	5,093 "		4,043 15 0
"	Porcelain	619 boxes		187 1 8
"	Saltpetre	173 piculs		402 10 0
"	Seaweed	904 "		536 0 10
"	Seeds	7,340 "		1,875 0 0
"	Shells			
"	Silk (raw)	1,112 "		82,040 10 0
"	" (manufactured)	50 boxes		1,566 10 0
"	Sulphur			
"	Sundries	614 piculs		1,878 19 2
"	Tea	919 "		5,227 18 4
"	Verdigris			
"	Wax (vegetable, &c.) ..	138 "		1,731 13 4
			Total ..	£114,484 18 8

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

XIV.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Imported into the Port of Kanagawa, in 2 French vessels of 750 tons, from the Countries and Places under-mentioned, during the year 1860.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	From what Countries and Places imported.	Estimated Value in Sterling at 4s. 2d. Exchange.
2	Sundry cotton goods	397 bales	Hong Kong	£ s. d. 1,364 11 4
"	" woollen goods	2 "	"	152 1 8
"	Spelter	90 piculs	"	106 0 10
4	Sapanwood	16,435 sticks	"	1,122 1 8
			Total ..	£2,744 15 6

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

XV.—A RETURN of the Quantities and Value of Merchandize Exported at the Port of Kanagawa, in 2 French vessels of 750 tons, to the Countries and Places under-mentioned, during the year ending 31st December, 1860.

Number in the Tariff.	Denomination of Articles.	Quantities.	To what Countries and Places exported.	Estimated Value in Sterling at 4s. 2d. Exchange.
4	Copper	539 piculs	Shanghai and Hong Kong.	£ s. d. 2,287 18 4
"	Cotton (manufactured)	2 boxes		91 13 4
"	Fish (dried, &c.)	562 piculs		592 14 2
"	Flour	565 "		193 2 6
"	Iron	1 "		11 10 0
"	Lacquered ware	14 boxes		81 5 0
"	Medicines	735 piculs		728 10 10
"	Oil	530 "		364 7 6
"	Saltpetre	173 "		402 1 8
"	Seaweed	365 "		229 3 4
"	Seeds	2,069 "		400 0 0
"	Shells	90 "		11 5 0
"	Silk goods	37 boxes		172 18 4
"	Sundries	405 "		189 10 0
"	Wax (vegetable, &c.)	45 piculs		81 5 0
			Total ..	£5,835 4 8

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

XVI.—RETURN of British Shipping at the Port of Kanagawa in the year 1860.

Direct Trade in British Vessels from and to Great Britain and British Colonies.

ENTERED.

Number of Vessels.			Total Tonnage.			Total Number of Crews.	Total Value of Cargoes.
With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.		
5	4	9	1,852	1,882	3,734	202	£ s. d. 6,522 5 10

CLEARED.

Number of Vessels.			Total Tonnage.			Total Number of Crews.	Total Value of Cargoes.
With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.		
15	..	15	6,501	..	6,501	276	£ 111,256 s. 17 d. 6

Indirect, or Carrying Trade, in British Vessels from and to other Colonies.

ENTERED.

Places whence arrived.	Number of Vessels.			Tonnage.			Number of Crews.	Value of Cargoes.
	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.		
Shanghai ..	18	19	37	7,076	7,864	14,940	928	£ 122,437 s. 5 d. 10
Nagasaki ..	5	..	5	2,420	..	2,420	433	3,925 12 6
Hakodadi ..	..	1	1	..	630	630	19	
	23	20	43	9,496	8,494	17,090	1,380	126,362 18 4

CLEARED.

Places whence arrived.	Number of Vessels.			Tonnage.			Number of Crews.	Value of Cargoes.
	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.		
Shanghai ..	25	1	26	9,234	630	9,864	623	£ 246,004 s. 3 d. 3
Nagasaki ..	7	..	7	3,844	..	3,844	601	55,796 13 4
Hakodadi ..	2	1	3	787	363	1,150	65	15,089 11 8
Lima ..	1	..	1	365	..	365	17	3,666 17 6
	35	2	37	14,230	993	15,223	1,306	320,557 5 8

Remark.—Three ships of 1,399 tons departed direct for London, and 12 vessels of 5,102 tons for Hong Kong, with general cargoes. The vessels which came from and departed for Nagasaki only touched at that port on their way from or to Shanghai, &c.

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed)

F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

XVII.—RETURN of British and Foreign Shipping at the Port of Kanagawa in the year 1860.

ENTERED.

Nationality of Vessels.	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			Invoice Value of Cargoes.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	
British ..	28	11,348	1,026	24	10,376	556	52	21,724	1,582	£ 132,885 s. 4 d. 2
American ..	15	5,651	258	20	8,088	332	35	13,739	691	51,827 15 0
Dutch ..	4	1,824	70	10	2,808	177	14	4,692	247	9,565 19 4
French ..	1	500	16	1	250	9	2	750	25	2,744 15 6
	48	19,323	1,370	55	21,582	1,074	103	40,905	2,544	197,023 14 0

CLEARED.

Nationality of Vessels.	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			Invoice Value of Cargoes.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	
British..	50	20,731	1,547	2	993	35	52	21,724	1,582	£ 431,814 3 2
American	34	13,575	648	3	1,410	48	37	13,985	690	271,677 18 4
Dutch ..	15	4,642	260	..	..	..	15	4,642	260	114,484 18 8
French..	2	750	25	..	..	..	2	750	25	5,835 4 8
	101	39,698	2,480	5	2,403	83	106	41,101	2,557	823,812 4 10

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

XVIII.—REGISTER of British Ships entering the Port of Kanagawa during the year ending
31st December, 1860.

Name of Ship.	Port of Registry.	Official No.	Name of Master.	Whence Coming.	Whither Bound.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Departure.	REMARKS, &c.
1. Azof, steamer	London	7,509	J. D. Gaby	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	Jan. 6	Jan. 14	
2. Talca	Liverpool	27,450	— Fisher	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	6	21	
3. Sir George Pollock	London	25,250	— Withers	Shanghai	Shanghai	8	Feb. 4	
4. Dayspring	Liverpool	15,077	— Knowles	Hakodadi	Hakodadi	8	Jan. 21	
5. Troas	Sunderland	20,729	Henry Holmes	Shanghai	Shanghai	17	Feb. 6	
6. Remi, steamer	London	11,978	P. Laen	Shanghai	Shanghai	17	Jan. 21	
7. Cruiser	London	..	John Bythesca	Yeddo	Nagasaki	24	Feb. 1	H.B.M.'s sloop of war.
8. Claro	Sunderland	2,740	Peter Sheen	Shanghai	Hong Kong	24	Feb. 10	
9. Medina	London	20,184	W. Macdonald	Shanghai	Shanghai	Feb. 3	Feb. 22	
10. Broadwater	London	20,998	— Stockman	Shanghai	Shanghai	3	Mar. 26	
11. Koh-i-noor	Whitby	16,980	— Marten	Shanghai	Shanghai	3	Feb. 28	
12. Roebuck	London	..	— Marten	Shanghai	Nagasaki	3	Mar. 26	
13. Henry Ellis	Cape Town	30,338	W. A. Baillie	Shanghai	Hong Kong	14	Mar. 10	H.M.S.
14. Margie	Jersey	109	D. le Geyt	Shanghai	Hong Kong	18	Mar. 17	
15. Azof, steamer	London	7,509	J. D. Gaby	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	19	Feb. 27	
16. Medina	London	20,184	W. Macdonald	Sea	Shanghai	20	Feb. 22	Put back.
17. Excelsior	Scarborough	14,913	— Robson	Shanghai	Hakodadi	30	Mar. 17	
18. Camilla	London	..	Geo. Colville	Nagasaki	Hakodadi	28	Mar. 17	H.M.S.
19. Eliza Mary	London	19,148	J. C. Fine	Shanghai	Shanghai	28	Mar. 21	
20. Celestial	London	11,942	D. Legoe	Shanghai	Shanghai	Mar. 5	April 5	
21. Roebuck	London	..	— Marten	Shanghai	Nagasaki	14	Mar. 16	H.M.S.
22. Dayspring	Liverpool	15,077	W. Knowles	Hakodadi	Shanghai	14	Mar. 17	
23. Azof, steamer	London	7,509	J. D. Gaby	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	29	April 6	
24. Troas	Sunderland	20,729	H. Holmes	Shanghai	London	1	May 1	
25. Witch of the Seas	London	7,320	— Baxter	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2	April 14	
26. Medina	London	20,184	W. Macdonald	Shanghai	Shanghai	5	April 29	
27. Camilla	London	..	Geo. Colville	Hakodadi	Nagasaki	7	May 20	H.M.S.
28. Georgiana	Liverpool	26,061	D. Jones	Shanghai	London	12	May 16	
29. Sea Witch	Hong Kong	23,422	— Corbett	Shanghai	Hong Kong	23	May 14	
30. Eliza Mary	London	19,148	J. C. Fine	Shanghai	Shanghai	May 4	May 16	
31. Excelsior	Scarborough	14,913	— Robson	Shanghai	Shanghai	10	May 23	
32. Celestial	London	11,942	D. Legoe	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	18	June 13	
33. Lady Elizabeth	London	10,756	Thos. Laws	Shanghai	Shanghai	18	May 31	
34. Chusan, steamer	Liverpool	30,713	— Beasley	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	19	June 29	
35. Berwick Walls	Liverpool	1,095	Fudlay	Shanghai	Shanghai	23	June 31	
36. Locknow	Aberdeen	20,372	— Leslie	Shanghai	Shanghai	23	June 31	
37. Livingstone	Stirling	12,682	— Prym	Shanghai	Shanghai	1	June 26	
38. Camilla	London	..	Geo. Colville	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	10	June 16	H.M.S.
39. Azof, steamer	London	7,509	J. D. Gaby	Shanghai	Nagasaki	10	June 22	
40. Chusan, steamer	London	30,713	— Beasley	Shanghai	Shanghai	15	July 3	H.M.'s hired transport.
41. Walmer Castle	London	6,070	— Daniels	Tien-tsin	Peiho	17	July 14	
42. Lanrick	Bombay	..	Geo. Thomson	Shanghai	Shanghai	18	July 23	
43. Challenger	London	10,707	— Killick	Shanghai	Shanghai	23	July 16	
44. Witch of the Seas	Sunderland	7,320	— Baxter	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	July 5	July 19	
45. Medina	London	20,184	W. Macdonald	Hakodadi	Hakodadi	7	July 23	
46. Neva	Hong Kong	15,392	— Waller	Shanghai	Shanghai	7	July 16	
47. Ivera	London	..	W. M. Robinet	Hong Kong	Taiwan	9	Aug. 4	Crew mutinous, 11 imprisoned.
48. Azof, steamer	London	7,509	J. D. Gaby	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	9	July 11	Hired transport.
49. Camilla	London	..	Geo. Colville	Hakodadi	Hakodadi	20	Aug. 23	H.M.S.
50. Neville	Liverpool	15,373	— Carr	Shanghai	Shanghai	24	Sept. 5	
51. Pruthi	London	24,672	Thos. Hutton	Hakodadi	Hakodadi	Aug. 4	Aug. 7	
52. Henry Ellis	Cape Town	30,338	W. A. Baillie	Hong Kong	Shanghai	31	Oct. 3	
53. Berenice, steamer	London	..	— Robinson	Nagasaki	Hakodadi	31	Sept. 24	H.M.I.N.
54. Lady Elizabeth	London	10,756	Thos. Laws	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Sept. 1	Nov. 4	
55. Patricia	London	28,067	— Payne	Taiwan	Taiwan	3	Sept. 2	Hired transport.
56. Zouave	Liverpool	32,927	— Malcolm	Shanghai	Shanghai	3	Sept. 27	Do.
57. Albera	London	6,125	— Elmslie	Shanghai	Shanghai	4	Sept. 27	Do.
58. Jessamine	Sunderland	23,734	— Maloney	Shanghai	Shanghai	5	Sept. 27	Do.
59. Jura	Glasgow	33,308	Robt. Chambers	Shanghai	Shanghai	6	Oct. 27	Do.
60. Atieth Rahmon	Bombay	..	— Clarke	Shanghai	Shanghai	6	Oct. 27	Do.
61. Kennington	London	13,729	— Edwards	Shanghai	Shanghai	6	Sept. 27	Do.
62. Arracan	Bombay	..	— Brett	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	19	Sept. 25	H.M.I. Marine.
63. England, steamer	London	16,353	A. D. Dundas	Shanghai	Shanghai	Oct. 4	Oct. 15	
64. Berenice, steamer	London	..	— Robinson	Hakodadi	Hakodadi	10	Oct. 21	H.M.I.N.
65. Lanrick	Bombay	..	Geo. Thomson	Shanghai	Shanghai	10	Oct. 21	
66. Ocean Gem	Liverpool	25,744	— Cubbins	Shanghai	Shanghai	16	Dec. 5	
67. Neva	Hong Kong	15,392	— Waller	Shanghai	Shanghai	18	Oct. 30	
68. Araby Maid	Alloa	138	— Pennie	Hong Kong	Lima	22	Nov. 25	
69. Marmora	Dundee	7,250	Thos. Lyell	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	30	Nov. 11	
70. Ivera	Hong Kong	..	W. M. Robinet	Shanghai	Shanghai	30	Nov. 23	
71. Eliza Mary	London	19,148	J. C. Fine	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Nov. 6	Dec. 4	1 man fined 10 dollars and imprisoned—disobedient.
72. Medina	London	20,184	W. Macdonald	Shanghai	Nagasaki	28	Dec. 17	
73. England, steamer	Cape Town	30,338	W. A. Baillie	Shanghai	Shanghai	30	Dec. 26	
74. Pioneer	London	..	— Reilly	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	Dec. 15	Jan. 5	H.M.'s sloop of war.
75. Granada, steamer	London	20,187	— Haselwood	Shanghai	Nagasaki	17	Dec. 29	H.M.'s corvette.
76. Impérieuse	London	..	— Maguire	Nagasaki	Hong Kong	24	Jan. 8	H.M.S.
77. Encounter	London	..	— R. Dew	Shanghai	Shanghai	24	Jan. 8	Do.
78. Scout	London	..	— Corbett	Nagasaki	Nagasaki	24	Jan. 8	
79. Lanrick	Bombay	..	— Thomson	Shanghai	Shanghai	29	Oct. 24	
80. Keepsake	London	..	— Venus	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Oct. 10	Oct. 24	

British Consulate, Yokohama,
February 1861.

(Signed) F. HOWARD VYSE,
Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

Inclosure 6 in No. 9.

Mr. ————— to Consul Vyse.

My dear Sir,

Kanagawa, August 8, 1861.

IN reply to your letter of the 6th instant, requesting to be informed of my opinion of the progress of trade at this port, and of its position at the present time as compared with its state in February last, I have the following to communicate; and in answering your questions, I will observe the order in which you have placed them.

1st. You ask me whether I consider the prohibitions and restrictions of the Japanese Government towards their merchants to be less or more, or the same as they were last February.

In my opinion, there is little or no change in the conduct of the Government; but the experience I have had during the past six months tends to impress me with the belief that any influence exercised by Government over commercial transactions is confined simply to the entry of all goods at the Custom-house for the purpose of inspection, and for the collection of an *ad valorem* duty of 1 per cent., called a town-due. I have not found that produce has in any way been prohibited, or even restricted in coming to this port; and I am of opinion the course of business has not been officially interfered with by the Japanese authorities to the detriment of foreign traders. When a native merchant makes a sale of merchandize to a foreigner, or purchases goods from him, he has certainly to report to the authorities the particulars of the transaction before delivering his produce or receiving his purchases; but I cannot say that the system, as at present carried out, is calculated to curtail business in the least, and I think it has been adopted more with a view to statistical information than from a desire to interfere with or to control the transactions of native dealers.

2ndly. You ask me whether I consider the first six months of 1861 to show more or less trade, both import and export, at this port than the first six months of 1860, and, if so, if I can in any way account for it.

In point of value the business transacted at this port during the first six months of 1861 far exceeds what was transacted during the same period of 1860. The export of sundries for consumption in China, which was carried on on a large scale early in 1860, has almost entirely ceased, and thus less employment has been given by Japan to shipping this year than last. The decline of this trade, however, has been brought about by a change of taste in China, and is not in any way attributable to the Japanese, who, indeed, are only too anxious to see it revived.

The export of tea and silk was vastly greater during the first six months of 1861 than it was in 1860; but I cannot state the increase, as from the way business was transacted at that time, it was impossible to keep statistics.

To show you, however, that there has been a rapid development of the export trade, I need only state that from July 1859 to July 1860 the export of silk was about 5,000 bales; from July 1860 to July 1861 it was 12,000 bales. Of tea, from July 1859 to July 1860 there are no statistics, but the export was a mere trifle; whereas from July 1860 to July 1861 it amounted to near 5,000,000 lbs. Such figures as these place the growing nature of our trade, and its importance, beyond question, and require no comment.

The import trade during the first five months of 1860 hardly merited the name, and it was not until June 1860 that it assumed any importance, but it then became remarkable for its development. During the fourth, fifth, and six months of this year the import business fell off considerably; but I think that was to be expected, as trade is seldom so brisk in manufactures at the beginning and during summer, as in the autumn and winter.

3rdly. You ask me if I think there has been as much produce allowed to come into Yokohama as one might naturally expect after two years' commercial intercourse, and if I am aware of any orders having been issued by the Japanese Government to intimidate or otherwise prohibit the native merchants from obtaining the different articles of commerce required for the trade of this port.

The trade of Yokohama, both in imports and exports, so far as respects its extent, has in my opinion more than answered the expectations of the most sanguine, and at the present moment there are indications that the season we are just entering upon will be one of increased importance, particularly as respects the export of tea and silk. The crops of these two staple articles have been large, and it is particularly noticeable in tea, that the small chops of 10 to 50 piculs that were offered last season have now given place to chops of 100 to 200 piculs, and sometimes even 300 piculs. I am not aware that the Japanese Government has issued orders in any way prohibiting trade with foreigners, nor do I believe

that any restrictions have been imposed on commerce, or any system of official intimidation adopted with the native merchants. Indeed, I think the amount of business transacted is almost of itself sufficient proof that the small and hitherto almost penniless traders have not had to cope with any very serious official restrictions or interference.

The merchants of Yeddo sometimes exercise a sort of arbitrary power similar to what has so often been used elsewhere for purposes of protection, when large interests have been at stake; but for a country so recently opened to foreign trade, the restrictive action of the guilds has not been very frequent. The most noticeable interference was in February last, when the dealers were prohibited from purchasing foreign raw cotton, in order to protect the large holders of native staple. The prohibition is still in force to a certain extent; but I believe there is a likelihood of its soon being entirely removed.

The currency is still, and will probably continue to be for a long time, the great difficulty the export trade has to contend with. The dollar appears to make little or no progress in the country, and the fluctuations in the value embarrass trade very much.

Yours truly,
(Signed) _____

Inclosure 7 in No. 9.

Mr. _____ to Consul Vyse.

My dear Sir,

Yokohama, Japan, August 7, 1861.

I RECEIVED in due course your letter of the 6th instant, requesting me to furnish you with my opinion on the trade in general with Japan. I shall reply to the points mentioned as I go on. Not having been present during the first six months of 1860, makes it difficult for me to draw the parallel with the corresponding half of 1861, seeing that no reliable data can be extracted from the Japanese Custom-house authorities touching the export and import quantities and values—information which is furnished freely in other countries. For this reason I am unable to show positively which way the balance of trade would incline; but with respect to imports, I have no doubt that the value brought here in the first half of this year is infinitely beyond that of 1860, for the all-sufficient reason that the trade in imports could not obtain a footing in this country until the exchange of coin at the Treaty-rate was discontinued by the Government on and after the 1st of July, 1860. The Mexican dollar having gone to a discount of about 30 per cent. in consequence thereof, those imports which had been brought to this country from time to time as trial shipments (and of which a considerable accumulation was then in the place) became an object of attention to the Japanese merchants who held Mexican dollars at the heavy discount, and they gladly exchanged them for goods, no matter whether they were suitable or unsuitable to the wants of the country, the primary object being to get rid of a coin which in relation to their own stood at such a serious disadvantage. Some of these goods, owing to their apparent cheapness, found a ready sale in the country, which had its natural result in the encouragement and enlargement of the import trade for the autumn and winter of 1860; during which period it was, on the part of many resident foreigners, a source of daily accusation against the Legations and Consulates of the Treaty Powers that they, for objects of personal gain, had not only assisted in bringing about, but also combined for the perpetration of, the iniquitous depreciation of foreign coin. This accusation was met by an invitation from Her Britannic Majesty's Minister to the British community to place the grievance before him in such a specific shape as would enable him to take those measures in his power to get a remedy; but they declined this assistance, and subsequently, in meetings, both public and private, declared that the depreciation of foreign coin acted beneficially for the import trade. This is a digression from the main object of my letter, but is rendered necessary by what is to follow.

I am now of opinion that the depreciated value of foreign coin has worked all the good it can towards the development of the import trade with Japan; the same causes are still in force, but the corresponding effect is wanting. It is well known that the foreign warehouses of Yokohama are piled up with imported goods which have been brought here under the impression that a continuance of the situation would facilitate the sale thereof; but the structure being raised on an artificial foundation, goods which were in brisk demand at 3 dollars per piece are now unsaleable at 2 dollars 70 cents,

which of itself will give a loss to the importers. I assert, therefore, without hesitation that everything is now in full play which can by any possibility assist the trade in imports, and I do not see from what other source any further good can be derived; and the result of all the fostering influence which has been brought to bear on this particular branch of commerce is, that scarcely a single article can now be sold unless at a sacrifice.

I consider, further, that the trade of the first half of 1860 was much more profitable than that of 1861, for various reasons, but chiefly on account of the favourable rate of exchange, which enabled us to pay remunerative prices in native coin to the Japanese for their export produce, and thus induce them to bring it to the open ports for sale in quantity. I am of opinion that the Government has not been tampering seriously with the freedom of trade, such as it existed last February, because there was not much room left for any aggravation of obstructions and restrictions, save on the article of raw silk, which has lately had to submit to an additional squeeze imposed by the guilds of Yeddo, and against which the petty native merchants of Yokohama have protested in vain. There is very little produce either of tea or of silk in first hands at Yokohama, which is chiefly owing to the brisk demand for both, but more particularly for silk, which is eagerly bought up by foreigners, bag by bag, as it arrives; consequently, no accumulation of stock can take place, and I am unprepared to state whether or no the native merchants meet with obstructions in the transit to Yokohama. The present paucity of stock may also be partly accounted for by the earliness of the season, and the general impression is, that the flow of produce to this port will be both greater and steadier after the peasantry have housed the crops of cereals.

There is one other important matter to which I wish to draw your particular attention: I allude to a very large sum of money which has been advanced from time to time by various foreign merchants to the natives (men, for the most part, of slender means) to enable them to bring down produce to this port. I estimated that of a sum of not less 200,000 dollars advanced to the native dealers for this purpose, in the autumn of 1860, not one-twentieth part has been returned to the owners, in either money or kind.

The repeated applications to the authorities for assistance to enable them to regain their own meet with polite promises, but are barren of all other result. In the meantime the foreign merchant has to stand quietly by, while some of these debtors riot in every excess which Japanese debauch can invent, well knowing that it is his money which is being squandered; money which he now sees clearly was obtained from him under false pretences: and so long as the Japanese authorities refuse all redress by leaving the guilty parties at large, they lay themselves open to the grave charge of conniving at a huge fraud on the foreign mercantile community.

In conclusion, I beg to record my opinion that the general trade of foreigners with Japan is in a very unsatisfactory and almost artificial state, and unless an adjustment of the exchange of coin to the Treaty rate shall be accorded, I feel convinced that it will gradually wither away under this heavy blight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) _____.

Inclosure 8 in No. 9.

Mr. _____ to Consul Vyse.

My dear Sir,

Yokohama, Japan, August 8, 1861.

IN accordance with your wishes for my opinion on certain questions having reference to the trade of this port, I beg to make the following remarks in answer to each respectively, in the order stated by you.

1st. You ask whether I consider the prohibitions and restrictions of the Japanese Government towards their merchants to be less or more, or the same as they were last February.

The same—there is no apparent change; but what then was considered a prohibition, namely, the exaction of a per-centage on all sales to and purchases from foreigners, and which sales must be notified to the Custom-house authorities, may be looked on rather as a tax for local revenue than as a prohibition or restriction to their trading with foreigners. Then it was considered a restriction likely to increase to an arbitrary prohibition, but being limited in amount it can pass as a license for the privilege of being allowed to trade, or as a tax to meet the expenses of police, &c., entailed on the Local Government by our

residence here: however, it being, as I understand, only a small per-centage, I do not consider trade affected by it.

The other hindrances to trade then brought to your notice remain the same.

2nd. You inquire whether I consider the first six months of 1861 to show more or less trade, both import and export, at this port, than the first six months of 1860; and if so, can I account for it.

I am not in possession of the Custom-house returns to enable me to state from data, but I am of opinion that both export and import trade will show a large increase in money value over that of the corresponding period of last year. An increase in silk, tea, and copper exported, and of imports generally. Of tonnage much less, there having been no demand for China this season for sea-weed and other bulky articles; besides, last year several transports loaded here on Government account.

The export of silk from 1st July, 1860, to 1st July, 1861, was 11,008 bales, as compared with that of 1st July, 1859, to 1st July, 1860, 8,993 bales, but the quantity exported during the first six months of each year I do not know.

The import trade has developed beyond reasonable expectations, when it is considered that the Japanese had for so long been independent of foreign manufactures. Up to June 1860 there had been little or few purchases made of European manufactures. On the cessation in July 1860 of the issue of itzebus in exchange for dollars at the Treasury, the dollar was arbitrarily depreciated by the Government some 20 to 30 per cent. (*i.e.* from 311 to 240 to 220 itzebus per 100 dollars). This had the effect of causing Japanese merchants, who were receiving dollars in payment of silk, to invest the same in such manufactures as were then in the port rather than submit to the loss they would incur in changing the dollar at the Treasury into itzebus, which coin only is current in the interior, either from ignorance of the intrinsic value of the dollar, or more probably through its prohibition by the Government who now compel the merchants to bring their surplus dollars to the Treasury, giving in exchange, according to the supply of dollars, a rate varying from 225 to 235 itzebus per 100 dollars. Since then, for some months, there was comparatively an increasing import trade, and moderate supplies were taken off into consumption, but the limit of consumption is soon found among a people who have scarcely acquired a taste or want of foreign manufactures, and whose capabilities of buying may be supposed to be limited also; these detracting elements when added to supplies apparently without limit soon produced its natural effect—a depression in prices now existing. It is satisfactory to find that nearly every staple of Manchester and Bradford manufacture has, in a greater or less degree, been purchased.

The imports from July 1, 1860, to July 1, 1861, were, shirtings 2,543 bales; chintz 354 bales; drills 357 bales; other cottons 1,708 bales; T-cloths 236 bales; velvets 163 bales; Spanish stripes 66 bales; camlets 1,541 bales; other woollens 422 bales; Jafachelass 58 bales; long ells 175 bales; spelter 2,390% in value, against little or nothing during the corresponding period of 1859 and 1860.

3rd. Do I think there has been as much produce allowed to come into Yokohama as one might naturally expect after two years' commercial intercourse, and if I am aware of any orders having been issued by the Japanese Government to intimidate or otherwise prohibit the native merchant from obtaining the different articles of commerce required for the trade of the port?

The produce allowed to come into Yokohama during the second year being greatly in excess of that of the preceding year, I cannot, from ignorance of the production or crops in the interior, say that it is less than one might have expected. The failure of rape crop naturally affected the supply of rape seed and oil; but as there is an increase in silk, tea, and copper, one may infer that all available surplus had been forwarded. I am not aware of any orders emanating from the Japanese Government prohibiting their merchants from selling any kind of produce (except copper in bars prohibited of export by Treaty), but as most of the sellers here are merely the agents of principals at Yeddo, who control, through the medium of the Custom-house officials, the prices at which produce may be sold, it follows that these dealers, instead of meeting the demand, are oftentimes required to withdraw their produce. And although there is apparently no official control over the Japanese trader, yet we can enter into no contract for building before the carpenter has been to the Custom-house to obtain permission.

The same trouble and delay in getting permits exists, and goods imported, but re-shipped back to China, are still held liable to duty.

Contracts and money advanced by foreigners on account of contracts remain unfulfilled if it should not suit the Japanese merchant or contractor to complete his engagement, nor is the money returned, and no redress can be obtained through the Custom-house autho-

rities. This is clearly in contravention of the common sense reading of Article VII of the Treaty, wherein it is stated, "Should any Japanese subject fail to discharge debts incurred to a British subject, or should he fraudulently abscond, the Japanese authorities will do their utmost to bring him to justice, and to enforce recovery of the debts."

I remain, &c.
(Signed) _____.

Inclosure 9 in No. 9.

Messrs. _____ to Consul Vyse.

Sir,

Yokohama, August 10, 1861.

WITH regard to the questions you have requested us to furnish you with our opinion upon, we feel that it is extremely difficult to answer them with any degree of certainty. No one, indeed, can assert as a positive fact that restrictions to trade on the part of the Native Government do exist; nor, if so, to what extent, nor in what manner they are imposed. It is impossible, then, to draw any correct comparison between the obstructions that may be now supposed to exist, and those that were in force in February last. Yet a careful examination into certain facts connected with the trade of this port will, we think, satisfy any one that, for their own purposes, some influence has been exerted by the Government, prejudicial to, at least, one very important branch of foreign commerce, namely, our import trade. And a strong motive for such interference may, without difficulty, be found.

We are not now called upon to discuss again the question of the currency; but the enormous effect which the bad faith of the Native Government in this matter must have upon the development of trade must at once be evident. Granting that no actual immediate benefit would accrue to the foreign merchant from an advance in the exchange of dollars from 220 to 240 itzebus up to 300 itzebus per 100 dollars, and that competition would prevent lower prices for produce, even with this largely increased value of the dollar, it is, nevertheless, obvious that the native merchant would benefit to an enormous extent, and that an impetus commensurate with the enhancement of their profits would be given to the production of their various articles of export. At the same time this low value of the dollar would naturally be expected to have a very beneficial effect upon the trade in imports. For it is evident that we are now paying 2 dollars for any article, the native merchants give what is to them only of the value, say of 5 itzebus; while, were dollars at their true value, they would be paying the equivalent, or 6 itzebus.

Now to form a just opinion as to whether obstructions are placed in the way of trade by the Government it is necessary to glance over the facts connected with the import trade at this port. About July last year, soon after the time when all exchange of dollars by the Government to foreigners, at the rate of 311 itzebus per 100 dollars, ceased, and when a considerable fall in the value of the dollar had taken place, the effect of this depreciation of the foreign coin was very marked. During the months of July, August, September, and October, a very remarkable business, for the second year only of trade, was carried on. Many kinds of goods of foreign manufacture were sold in large quantities, and at prices giving the foreign merchants a considerable profit. During these months many thousands of pieces of grey shirtings were sold at prices varying from 2.90 to 3.15 dollars per piece; while in camlets, a very expensive description of goods, nearly the whole of the export from Europe to China (a large quantity even for that country, where so large and long-established an import trade is carried on) was transhipped to Japan, relieving the China houses of a large stock of goods difficult of sale during a dull year like the past, and were readily sold here at very remunerative rates, say from 30 to 35 dollars per piece. In October a sudden check took place, almost all import business drooped, and it was with great difficulty that purchasers could be induced to remove and pay for goods that had been eagerly settled for but a few days previously. The business has, since then, gradually decreased, in spite of large concessions in price on the part of foreign merchants, and for the past three or four months all cash business may be said to have almost ceased to exist. At the same time an increasing business in barter has taken place for the past two or three months, but at greatly reduced prices, and grey shirtings have been taken against tea at 2.50 dollars for 5½ catty goods, and are actually resold by the native merchants on the spot or in Yeddo

at 2·20 dollars per piece, while a very few transactions have taken place in camlets at about 23½ dollars for the best assortments.

Now it will not be supposed by any one, in any way acquainted with the trade of this port, that the business of last year was occasioned by any sudden and rash speculation among the Yokohama dealers, nor that it was followed by heavy losses. On the contrary, large quantities of the goods were retailed in the neighbourhood at very remunerative prices. It is well known that cotton and cotton fabrics have been, and now are, exceedingly dear in this country, and that we can supply them cheaper than the native manufacturers. The goods are admirably suited to their requirements, and the check has been not in any particular description, but in everything alike; nor can the merchants themselves attribute a cause for the cessation of the business, all allowing the suitability of the staples, and none complaining of loss in their transactions. Where, then, are we to seek the causes of this stagnation? We confess we can see but one natural conclusion. The native Government must, very early in this trade, have discovered a vast falling off in the profit they derive from the exchange of dollars at Yeddo, and so long as they receive nearly one-third of all the silver paid for the produce of the country, it can scarcely be supposed they will view with equanimity the growth of a trade which deprives them of so large a portion of their revenue.

The only conclusion we can deduce from these facts, is that obstructions are thrown in the way of our import trade by the native Government, and with the enormous and almost incredible power at their disposal, it must have been easily checked; but we confess we have been unable to discover their mode of operation—whether by taxes or simple prohibitions and discouragements.

With regard to exports, it is as yet too early in the season to give an opinion as to the increase or decrease of production; but our progress has hitherto been such as does not lead us to suppose any adverse influence to be at work.

Silk has certainly come down but slowly this season, but we think this may be attributed to natural causes, and are inclined to believe that the supply will be a large one, especially for a country in the infancy of trade.

In tea there has been much progress, both in the mode of preparation for the foreign market and in the quantities offered for sale.

On the whole, then, we think that in the export trade there has been as much progress as could have been looked for, and with the exception of one or two peculiar articles, in none of which could any large business ever be carried on, we are disposed to think no Government obstructions are thrown in the way of supplies arriving freely.

We would beg again to refer you to a letter we had the honour to address you some months ago, on the subject of drawbacks on goods re-exported from this place, which is a point we think it of importance to be decided.

In addition, we wish to draw your attention to the demands of the Custom-house for the payment of duty on articles intended solely for the safe package, for conveyance to England, of Japanese produce, such as leads for tea-chests, mats for covering packages, and other articles for the proper preparation of tea for foreign consumption. We cannot conceive that it was ever intended that duty should be paid on such articles, which are not intended for sale to the Japanese, and are not obtainable in the country, but are simply to enable foreign merchants safely to convey their produce to Europe.

We also think that a remission of duty on private stores might well be demanded, as, in China, not only these, but all articles intended solely for foreign consumption, are free of duty.

We have, &c.

(Signed) _____.

Inclosure 10 in No. 9.

Messrs. Bell, Howell, &c., to Consul Vyse.

Sir,

Kanagawa, February 9, 1861.

WE have the honour to wait upon you with Minutes of a meeting held to take into consideration a reply to the despatch of Her Majesty's Minister and Envoy Extraordinary, requesting to be placed in possession of particulars of restrictions to trade, contrary to Treaty; and we trust the following statements will be of use to Her Majesty's Envoy, in

freeing the trade of this port from many of the obstructions commerce has hitherto laboured under.

1. *The Currency.*—It is beyond all question that restrictions are put upon the circulation of the dollar; but it does not appear that in any direct way is its currency value now controlled by officials. The Government is not anxious that foreign coin should be introduced into the country, and therefore prohibits its circulation elsewhere than in Yeddo and at the open ports, and the consequent demand for itzebus, with which to purchase the products of the country suitable for export, has raised the value of the native coin to a premium of about $30\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In September the premium was nearly 50 per cent., but the large purchases made by Government to supply the Mint, and a rapid development of an import trade, brought about a considerable decline. Since the improvement in the dollar took place Government has confined its purchases of silver more to the product of its own mines, the proprietors of these being obliged to dispose of the metal at an arbitrary rate.

The revenue derived from the Mint is very great, and it is clearly the desire of Government to protect it by prohibiting a foreign coin from becoming current, and displacing, in a great measure, the native.

It is certainly not to the prejudices of the people the depreciation is attributable; for the experience of the last nineteen months shows that the natives approve of the dollar as a coin.

We are therefore of opinion that the unrestricted circulation of foreign coins throughout the Empire, if it be secured—and it is stipulated for in our Treaty—would gradually restore the dollar to its legitimate value, and that, too, at no very distant period.

The working of the currency during the past four months cannot be regarded as having been very seriously against us, as to it is due, in a very marked degree, the development of a large import trade.

The export trade is certainly checked by it; but there is no reason to doubt that the free and unrestricted circulation of the dollar, by adding to the metallic currency of the country, will lead to a mutual and rapid development of both an import and export trade.

2. *Apparent Breach of Treaty by Government in not enforcing the Observance of Contracts.*—The non-fulfilment of contracts by merchants in a position to carry out their engagements appears to us in the light of a grievance against the Government, as it is in its power to enforce their observance.

It is needless to recapitulate cases, as the archives of the Consulate can furnish you with abundant proof of how constantly and shamelessly the native merchants break faith with foreigners, and depart from their engagements with the apparent approval of their rulers. One case, however, may be mentioned, which was brought before your notice by Mr. Keswick on the 17th of February, 1860. The contractor was Mitzui Haiziro, a large merchant of this place, and said to be the wealthiest in Japan, connected with the Government, and acting as its banker throughout the Empire. The produce contracted for was silk and oil; but only the most trifling quantity of each was delivered. This case has been in your hands for nearly a year, and you are doubtless well aware what steps the Japanese Government has taken to enforce the observance of mercantile engagements upon its subjects.

3. *Official interference with Merchants in disposing of produce.*—Official interference with the sale of produce to foreigners we believe to be systematic, though difficult of proof. We all know that every sale and every purchase effected by a Japanese merchant has to be reported to officers specially appointed to keep a record of every transaction, and a note of the prices. We cannot assert that a system of extortion exists, but as evidence of the fact that there is interference with trade contrary to Treaty, we conceive the two following statements will suffice.

Mr. H. J. Hooper can assert that within the last two months he has been desirous of contracting for manufactured copper, and was unable to do so, in consequence of the native merchants assuring him that although, on their own part, willing and anxious, they were not allowed, in consequence of the Government having, on the ninth month of the present Japanese year, called in all outstanding contracts, and given the merchants warning not to enter into any new ones. This he can prove by a gentleman who was present when he sought to make such contracts, but in the interests of his business he cannot, of course, give up the names of the merchants, who, for the reasons above stated, and those alone, refused to contract.

Messrs. Tatham and Co. bought 10 piculs awabi, from Ichikawayah; it was delivered,

but upon examination four boxes were rejected. On inquiry why these four boxes were not taken away, their godown coolie said the merchant was in prison, whereupon his home was visited, and the shop found shut up; the head man was confined in the house, and stated all his servants were in prison. Captain Vyse spoke to the Custom-house officials, who promised to release the prisoners; but the shop is still closed, and the merchant cannot do business, and is thereby debarred from delivering other produce purchased from him.

4. *Want of system at Custom-house, and inadequate Wharfage accommodation.*—Under this head we have most serious obstructions to trade to complain of, in the want of all system in transacting business at the Custom-house. It may be, and we believe it is the case, that there are a sufficient number of interpreters to transact all business with promptitude and despatch, but they do not appear in the room for granting permits and receiving duties, where they are most required. Occasionally there are two, but more frequently only one interpreter to attend to this department, and from the not unusual absence of interpreters altogether, foreigners experience most vexatious and unnecessary delays.

We have also to complain of the course adopted with permits, which the Custom-house grant indiscriminately, and not according to priority of application. It does not unfrequently happen that one man has to wait for hours, whilst another who has come after him is attended to first, and this without the application of the one being more difficult to grant than that of the other.

For remedying these evils, we would beg to suggest that there be a greater number of interpreters placed in the outer room, for the especial purpose of translating permits, and that all such be granted according to the order in which they are received.

Another point to which we would call your attention, is the frequent change of interpreters and other officers connected with the Custom-house, the present system appearing to be that, so soon as any officer becomes at all acquainted with the routine of the particular department under his charge, he is removed, and replaced by one totally ignorant of his duties: and the inconvenience of this is especially felt at the Examination House.

With respect also to the Examination House, it is frequently the case that produce remains there for hours uninspected, waiting for the permit to ship. We would suggest, in order to facilitate the shipment of produce, that so soon as brought to the jetty, it should be inspected, weighed, and put into boats, to be detained until production of the permits.

At the present time the supplying of cargo-boats is entirely in the hands of the Custom-house, and though we are of opinion that it might be beneficial to allow public competition, we do not wish the system changed, provided the Government is prepared to furnish boats sufficient for the requirements of the port, such boats being covered, and constructed so as to protect the goods they are intended to carry.

Owing to the state of things in China for some months past, the export trade at this port has been restricted, in a great measure, to tea and silk, and the inconvenience arising from an insufficient supply of cargo-boats has not been felt to any great degree; but looking forward to the probable revival of the trade in general cargoes, we would suggest that either the Government allow the supplying of cargo-boats to be open to public competition (in which case special stipulations would have to be made for obtaining boatmen), or that it should guarantee to keep up a sufficient supply of boats, properly built, with a view to protecting the goods shipped in them from damage and from rain, and that an equitable scale of charges be agreed upon. On the 9th September, 1860, several of the Government cargo-boats were wrecked, and we believe we are correct in stating that none of the boats then destroyed have yet been replaced.

Another evil is the coolie system. At present, two coolie masters, authorized by Government, have the supplying of coolies, and they fix what scale of charges they think proper, as it is impossible for foreigners to obtain labour except through them. The injustice attending such a system is great, and we would suggest that either foreigners be allowed to employ coolies irrespective of the masters, or that a scale of charges be agreed to, more in accordance with the wages paid to the coolies, and made binding upon the masters.

Daily experience proves that the present wharf for landing and shipping cargo is totally inadequate to the business requirements of the port, and as trade increases this inconvenience must be more and more felt. We would, therefore, suggest that three new wharfs be constructed, say one on the old and two on the new Settlement, and that at each of these there should be an Examination House, and proper officers to inspect the goods.

5. *Occupation of Land.*—We are not aware that any complaint of not affording facilities for the occupation of land and houses, on sites agreed upon by the Japanese and foreign authorities, can be made against the Government. Unaccountable, and, to many of us, most vexatious, delays have been experienced in obtaining land, but you are better informed than we are with whom the blame rests.

6. *Security to Life and Property.*—Under this head we have little to say, as it is needless now to dwell on the sacrifices that have already taken place. Apparently the Government is anxious to protect us; and, if we may judge from the precautions taken to secure life and property, we should also say it could do so effectually. We feel a certain amount of reserve, however, in speaking on this subject, as doubtless you are in possession of more reliable information than we are.

We have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. H. BELL.
 THOMAS HOWELL.
 W. KESWICK.
 GAND. MAINE.
 H. J. HOOPER.
 W. G. ASPINALL.
 A. J. MACPHERSON.
 J. S. BARBER.
 C. T. ELMSTONE.*
 THOS. ESKRIGGE.*
 THOS. TATHAM.*
 JOHN B. ROSS.
 J. LOUREIRO.*
 WM. MARSHALL.
 HENRY E. BUSH.*
 JAMES B. MACAULAY.
 THOS. BAKER.
 WM. Mc DONALD.*
 E. LOUREIRO.*
 J. H. BOYLE.
 R. C. D. MOFFAT.
 JOHN H. DUNS.
 S. MAIRLAND.

Inclosure 11 in No. 9.

Minutes of a Meeting held at Mr. Keswick's, on the 7th February, 1861.

Present:

F. H. Bell, *in the Chair.*

H. E. Bush, *Secretary.*

W. G. Aspinall.	F. Moffat.
T. Tatham.	J. Loureiro.
W. Keswick.	H. J. Hooper.
J. B. Ross.	A. J. Macpherson.
G. Henderson.	C. T. Elmstone.
W. Marshall.	W. Macdonald.
J. Birdseye.	S. Maine.

THE Chairman stated that the meeting had been called to take into consideration a despatch from Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy, respecting irregularities in the transaction of business at the Custom-house, and official interference with native merchants, contrary to Treaty, and other restrictions and obstructions to trade on the part of the Government.

Moved by Mr. Keswick, and seconded by Mr. Marshall—

“That, viewing the present state of the currency, as assisting in a very marked degree the growth of an import trade, and not as an arrangement, in its effects, altogether one-sided and prejudicial to foreigners, we are of opinion that in the interests of trade generally the dollar had better be left, as decided upon by our Minister some time since, to find its

* Approve of all with the exception of the currency clause.

own value; and in furtherance of this, we beg that Her Majesty's Minister will use his best endeavours to secure for the dollar unrestricted circulation, not only in Yeddo and Yokohama, but throughout the Empire." (Carried, 9 to 5.)

Proposed by Mr. Elmstone, and seconded by Mr. J. Loureiro—

"That Her Majesty's Minister be requested to secure, if practicable, the exchange of our coin by the Government at weight for weight, we paying a fair per-centage for recoinage; as, from the well-known duplicity of the Government, and with the example of the stamped dollar before us, it appears foreign coin cannot be made current as provided for by Treaty."

Mr. Keswick moved, and Mr. Marshall seconded, that Mr. Elmstone's motion be not put to the meeting. (Carried, 9 to 5.)

Moved by Mr. Tatham, seconded by Mr. Macpherson—

"That, with respect to the non-fulfilment of contracts entered into between foreign and Japanese merchants, instances be obtained and embodied by the Committee in their Report." (Carried, *nem. con.*)

Moved by Mr. Macpherson, seconded by Mr. Aspinall—

"That any member of the community who is acquainted with the fact of the Japanese officials having in any way interfered with native merchants in buying and selling, be requested to furnish particulars of same." (Carried unanimously.)

Moved by Mr. Macpherson, seconded by Mr. Macdonald—

"That there are at present many restrictions to business, arising from the manner in which the Custom-house is managed, viz., from want of sufficient interpreters, the frequent change of these and other officers, the insufficient accommodation afforded by the present cargo-boats and landing-place, and the high charges made for boat and coolie hire. That to remedy these grievances, jetties be established at the new concession, and other places when requisite, the supplying of coolies and cargo-boats thrown open to competition, or increased facilities given by the Government for the hiring of them, and that a fixed and equitable tariff be established instead of the present exorbitant rates." (Carried unanimously.)

Moved by Mr. Keswick, and seconded by Mr. Hooper—

"That there be recorded in the Minutes the thanks of this meeting to Her Majesty's Minister and Consul, for the opportunity of expressing an opinion on the restrictions and obstructions under which trade labours at this port, and of suggesting how, in some measure at least, they may be removed." (Carried unanimously.)

Moved by Mr. Marshall, and seconded by Mr. J. B. Ross—

"That a Committee be appointed, and be composed of Messrs. Bell, Keswick, Bush, Elmstone, and Marshall, to draw up a statement in accordance with the resolutions of this meeting, and wait upon Her Majesty's Consul with the same." (Carried unanimously.)

Moved by Mr. Keswick, and seconded by Mr. Macpherson—

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Chairman and Secretary." (Carried.)
(Signed) FRED. H. BELL, *Chairman.*

Inclosure 12 in No. 9.

LIST of Daimios holding Offices in the Tycoon's Government.

	Offices, Titles, and Colleagues or Councils of the Tycoon's Government.	Daimios holding these Offices.	Territorial Revenues in Kokous of Rice.	Value of Revenues (at 18 1/2d. per Koku).	Fortresses belonging to these Daimios.	In the Province of	Remarks.
1	The "Gotairo" or Regent of the Empire (in event of minority or illness of Tycoon). Said to be hereditary in the family of Ikamno no Kami	This high office, instituted for the event of the minority or sickness of the Tycoon, is always filled by a Daimio of the 1st Class, elected by the Councils of State and the majority of the Daimios.	...	£	...	...	Vacant since the murder of the Gotairo in March 1860. The Prince: Ikamno no Kami, pos- sessor of 350,000 kokous of revenue (£224,000), had occu- pied this post for seven years.
2	The First Council of State, "Gorogio" (5 members), Dai- mios of the 3rd Class	1. Koussé Yamato no Kami ... 2. Angdo Tsousima no Kami ... 3. Matsudaira Bonzan no Kami ... 4. Naito Ki no Kami ... 5. Honda Mino no Kami ... Midzouno Dewa no Kami ...	68,000 50,000 50,000 60,000 50,000 60,000	43,520 32,000 32,000 38,400 32,000 32,000	Seki Yado Mourakami Noumatzou ...	Simosa Etsigo Sourouga ...	Ministers for Foreign Affairs. Entered the Council in 1860. Ditto 1860. Ditto 1855. Ditto 1860. In charge since 1859.
3	The Tycoon's Aide-de-camp, Grand Messenger of State. Daimio of the 3rd Class ("Osoba Goionine")	Midzouno Dewa no Kami ...	60,000	32,000	Noumatzou ...	Sourouga ...	In charge since 1859.
4	Second Council of State ("Onwa- kadouchiori"), 7 members, Daimios of 3rd and 4th Classes	1. Hori Idzumo no Kami ... 2. Midzouno Idzoumi no Kami ... 3. Enda Takouma no Kami ... 4. Soua Inaba no Kami ... 5. Sakai Oukiono-souke ... 6. 7.	10,000 50,000 12,000 30,000 10,000	6,400 32,000 7,680 19,200 6,400	 Taka Sima	 Sinauo	Entered the Council in 1850. Ditto 1860. Ditto 1858. Ditto 1860.

	Offices, Titles, and Colleagues or Councils of the Tycoon's Government.	Daimios holding these Offices.	Territorial Revenues in Kokous of Rice.	Value of Revenues (at 13s. 10d. per Kokou).	Fortresses belonging to these Daimios.	In the Province of	Remarks.
5	Council of the Mikado, at the Court of the Tycoon (24 mem- bers), Daimios of the 3rd and 4th Classes, of whom ten have fortresses	Kouchiki Omi no Kami ... Matsudaira Hoki no Kami ... Inoie Kawatsi no Kami ... Awoyama Daizen-noske ... Matsudaira Sourouga no Kami ... Matsudaira Idzou no Kami ... Nishino Oki no Kami ... Makino Kawatchi no Kami ... Midzoume Sakounsioigen (ou Daiken Montsen) Ota Bitjou no Kami ... Sakni Wakasa no Kami (Daimio of 1st Class)	32,000 70,000 60,000 78,000 36,000 70,000 35,000 35,000 50,000 50,000 100,000	20,480 44,800 38,400 49,920 22,400 43,800 22,400 22,400 32,000 32,000 64,000	Foukouchi Yama ... Myatsou ... Nama Matsou ... Ghef ... Iwatsi ... Joshida ... Jokoska ... Tanabé ... Jamagata ...	Tamba. Tango. Totomi. Mino. Igo. Mikawa. Tango. Tango. Dewa.	
6	The Tycoon's Representative at the Court of the Mikado (at Kioto Onzoushidai)				Kakegawa ... Obama ...	Totomi. Wakasa.	
7	16 Aides-de-camp in ordinary to the Tycoon ("Osobashiou")	Possessing from ...	2,000 to 5,000	1,280 to 3,200			
8	24 Daimios, Ambassadors of the Tycoon at the Courts of Dai- mios ("Gokkishiou")	Possessing from ...	1,000 to 3,000	640 to 1,920			
9	4 Daimios, Ambassadors of the 2nd Class ("Gokkishiou Sonai Siki")	Ghino Wakasa no Kami ... Hataké Yama Membou Noské (2 vacancies).	1,532 5,000	9807. 10s. 3,200			
10	26 Daimios entrusted with the defence of the Tycoon, and obliged to furnish special mili- tary contingents. Daimios of the 2nd and 3rd Classes ("Onzoumeshiou")	Tsoutjia Oucmeno Sono ... Mabe Simosa no Kami ... Akimoto Tsousima no Kami ... Itakoura Sao no Kami ... Toda Yaenoské ... Matsudaira Kiosaboro ... Makino Bizen no Kami ... Doi Noto no Kami ... Awoyama Simodzouké no Kami ... Nagai Ghida no Kami ... Naito Sourouga no Kami ... Nagai Fizen no Kami ... Itakoura Naizen no Sono ... Itakoura Kazoué no Kami ... Kourouda Izen no Kami ... Matsudaira Skenoské ... Okouho Sado no Kami ... Oka Ghiga no Kami ... Honda Hoki no Kami ... Matsudaira Oribe no Sono ... Ishikawa Wakasa no Kami ... Abé Inaba no Kami ... Mioura Din-noské ... Naito Kiniziro ... Mahe Awa no Kami ... Doi Olijiti no Kami ...	95,000 50,000 60,000 50,000 77,000 82,000 35,000 40,000 60,000 36,000 23,000 32,000 30,000 30,000 30,000 30,000 30,000 28,000 40,000 20,000 20,000 16,000 23,000 15,000	60,800 32,000 38,400 32,000 49,280 52,480 22,400 25,600 38,400 23,040 14,720 20,480 19,200 19,200 19,200 19,200 14,720 25,600 13,800 12,800 10,240 14,720 9,600	Soutioura ... Matsuyama ... O-no ... Takato ...	Fitats. Bitjou. Totomi. Sinano.	
11	27 Daimios holding different military commands under the Tycoon's orders ("Onzoumé- nami")	Possessing revenues to the amount of ...	20,000	12,800			
12	4 Daimios, Superintending Gov- ernors of Justice, and Compt- rollers of Temples and Monas- teries ("On-Disha-Bougnios")	Matsudaira Hoki no Kami ... Matsudaira Idzou no Kami ... Midzoume Sakounsioigen ... Awoyama Daisen Noske ...	70,000 70,000 50,000 78,000	44,800 44,800 32,000 49,920			
13	8 Daimios, Superintendents of Passports at Hacoue and Arai ("Onroussou Tosjori- shiou")	Having revenues from ...	2,000 to 7,000	1,280 to 4,480			
14	12 Daimios, commanding Impe- rial Fortresses ("Ogoban Shiou")	Having revenues from ...	3,000 to 10,000	1,920 to 6,400			
15	20 Daimios, Lords of the Bed- chamber ("Goshio Goban")	Having revenues from ...	800 pios to 7,000 kokous	4,480			
16	Grand Ometakés, Councillors of State ("Dai Omitsaki"), 5 Dai- mios	Having revenues from ...	400 pios to 3,000 kokous	1,920			

Government Officers, not Daimios, but belonging to the "Hattamoto," or Vassals directly dependent on the Tycoon.

	Posts and Offices of the Tycoon's Government.	Salary in Kokous of Rice.	Value of in English money (at 13s. 10d. per Kokou).		Posts and Offices of the Tycoon's Government.	Salary in Kokous of Rice.	Value of in English money (at 13s. 10d. per Kokou).
17	2 Governors of the city of Yeddo ("Matchi- Bounios")	3,000	1,920	26	2 Generals of Musketeers ("O teppo kata")	9,000	5,760
18	4 Governors of Finance ("Gokanjo-Bounios")	1,500	960	27	10 Generals of troops armed with swords ("On- sakki Tenkata")	500	320
19	1 Governor of Public Works, Roads, and Rivers ("Osa-Koudji-Bounios")	1,500	960	28	24 Generals of the 2nd corps of Musketeers ("Onsakki teppo kata")	1,200	778
20	2 Governors of Public Buildings and Fortresses ("Ongo-Foushion-Bougnios")	1,500	960	29	5 Generals of Artillery ("On montji tsoutson grasira")	1,500	960
21	2 Governors of the Navy ("On-Gounkang- Bounios")	200 pios	384 s. (about)	30	3 Governors of Military Stores and Ammuni- tion ("O teppo tama keouri Bounio")	400	256
22	3 Governors superintending the registering of the Daimios' Banners ("Ongluta-Bounios")	From 4,000 to 9,000	2,560 5,760	31	1 Officer for preventing the discharge of fire- arms within radius of Yeddo ("Daiou ri yo hon teppo hong aratami")	3,000	1,920
23	4 Commanders-in-chief of the Imperial Guard ("Hacouine Goumi")	5,000	3,200	32	1 Governor-Inspector of the Schools of Musketry, established in 1800 ("Koboushio Bounio")	5,000	3,200
24	3 Generals of Archers ("O youmi kata")	500	320	33	From 15 to 20 Governors of Foreign Affairs and of the open ports* ("Gaikokou-Bounio")	From 1,300 to 2,000	640 1,280
25	5 Generals of troops armed with lances ("O yari kata")	1,800	1,152				

* From this class are chosen the Tycoon's Ambassadors and Envoys to Foreign Powers.

Inclosure 13 in No. 9.

Statement of the Feudal Princes of the Japanese Empire, arranged according to their Revenues.

[The Daimios to whose names an asterisk is prefixed are those who have, for the most part, shown themselves hostile to the "foreigners." They are all (twenty-four) more or less independent Sovereigns.]

I.—Daimios having Land Revenues of from 1,200,000 to 200,000 kokous (769,728*l.* to 128,000*l.*), and possessing Fortresses.

Daimios, with their Names and Titles in full, taken from the Japanese "Official Almanack." [†]	Their Revenues in Kokous of Rice.	Value of, in English money.	Fortresses, Strongholds, and Castles in their possession.	Situated in the Provinces of	Remarks.
*The Prince of Kanga, Maida Kaga no Kami...	1,202,700	£ 769,728	Kanasawa, Daisodgi, Koumatsou	Kaga and Noto	Bearing the title of "Tsunagon," a high dignity conferred by the Mikado, and answering to the title of "First Officer of the Court of Kyoto." Purely honorific.
*The Prince of Satsouma, Matsudaira Satsouma no Kami	760,800	486,912	Kagoshima, Sadowara	Satsouma and Fouigo	Known also by the name of "Siouri no Taiou," but less generally.
The Prince of Owari, Tokungawa Owari dono	629,500	402,880	Nagosa, Inu Yama	Owari	Of the three families from whom the Tycoon is elected, called "Gosankos," or "Brothers of the Tycoon."
*The Prince of Moutsen or Xendaï, Matsudaira Moutsen no Kami, or Xendaï	626,000	400,640	Siraisi, Xendaï, Taïra	Moutsen, or Oshiou Xendaï.	
The Prince of Kaïou, Tokungawa Kidono, or Kaïou	555,000	355,200	Wakayama, Tanabe, Singo	Ki, or Kaïou	Also one of the three families from whom the Tycoon is elected.
*The Prince of Etzu, Hosokawa Etzu no Kami	540,000	345,600	Koumamamoto, Jatsosiro, Oudo	Chigo or Figo.	
*The Prince of Mino, Matsudaira Mino no Kami	520,000	332,800	Foukooka	Tzikoudzen.	
*The Prince of Aki, Matsudaira Aki no Kami	436,000	279,040	Ghirosima	Aki.	
*The Prince of Daisen, Matsudaira Daizen no Taiou	369,000	236,160	Yewakumi, Tokuyama, Hagi-Chiofou	Nagato and Soulio.	
*The Prince of Fizen, Matsudaira Fizen no Kami	357,000	228,400	Saga	Fizen.	
The Prince of Mito, Tokungawa Mito dono	350,000	224,000	Mito	Flats	One of the three families whose members can be chosen Tycoon.
Prince Ikammono, Ikammono Kami	350,000	224,000	Ghikomé	Oömi	The regency of the Empire has frequently been bestowed on members of this family, in particular under the reign of the present Tycoon and of his predecessor.†
The Prince of Igo, Matsudaira Igo no Kami	330,000	211,200	Wakamatsou	Oshiou, or Moutsen Xendaï	
*The Prince of Itsumi, Todo Itsumi no Kami	323,950	207,320	Wérno	Iga	
*The Prince of Etsisen, Matsudaira Etsisen no Kami	320,000	204,800	Toukosi	Etsisen.	
*The Prince of Koura, Matsudaira Koura no Kami	310,000	198,400	Okayama	Bidzen.	
*The Prince of Awa, Matsudaira Awa no Kami	250,000	160,000	Söomoto, Tokusima	Awa and Awadzi (Island of)	
*The Prince of Tosa, Matsudaira Tosa no Kami	242,000	154,880	Takatchi	Tosa.	
Prince Okoubo Raga, Okouba Raga no Kami	213,000	136,320	Odawara	Sagami.	
*The Prince of Ghemba, Arima Ghemba no Kami	210,000	134,400	Koormé	Tsikongo.	
*The Prince of Okio, Sataké Okio no Taiou	205,000	131,200	Akita	Dewa.	
*The Prince of Nambou, Nambou Sinano no Kami	200,000	128,000	Morioka, Hatchinoké	Oshiou, or Mondzen Xendaï.	

† The present Tycoon is the son of the reigning Prince of Kaïou; he ranks but as Fourth High Officer in the Imperial hierarchy.

‡ The last Regent or "Gotairo" of the family of Ikammono was assassinated in March 1860 by the officers of Prince Mito. The Regent has left no children. The family is reported to be extinct. No new Regent has been appointed.

II.—Daimios having Land Revenues of from 180,000 to 100,000 kokous (115,200*l.* to 64,000*l.*) and Fortresses.

Daimios, with their Names and Titles taken from the "Official Almanack."	Their Revenues in Kokous of Rice.	In English Money.	Fortresses in their Possession.	In the Province of
*The Prince of Matsudaira Dewa no Kami	180,000	£ 115,200	Madzi	Idzumo.
The Prince of Matsudaira Kai no Kami	150,000	96,000	Koriyama	Yamato.
The Prince of Matsudaira Okino Kami	150,000	96,000	Ousö, Takou, Matsuyama	Igo or Iho.
Okasawa Sakio no taiou	150,000	96,000	Kokourä	Boudzen.
Okoudaira Daisen no taiou	150,000	96,000	Nakatou	Boudzen.
Sakai Sayemon no dzio	150,000	96,000	Shouai	Dewa.
Wiezougui Danio no Daihitou	150,000	96,000	Iguesawa	Dewa.
Sakakibari Sikibou no taiou	150,000	96,000	Takata	Etsigo.
The Prince of Ooto, Sakai Ooto no Kami	150,000	96,000	Ghimedgi	Harima.
*Tachibana Sakou Siogen	120,000	76,800	Yanagawa	Chikongo.
The Prince of Awa, Kourousima Awa no Kami	102,500	65,600	Takeda	Boungo.
The Prince of Simosa, Matsudaira Simosa no Kami	100,000	64,000	Oshi	Mousachi.
Toda Onemenou no Ziö	100,000	64,000	Ogaki	Mino.
The Prince of Sinano, Sanada Sinano no Kami	100,000	64,000	Matsiro	Sinano.
The Prince of Igo, Abe Igo no Kami	100,000	64,000	Sirakawa	Oshiou.
*The Prince of Etjou, Tsougäro Etjou no Kami	100,000	64,000	Ghiéromasé	Oshiou.
The Prince of Wakasa, Sakai Wakasa no Kami	100,000	64,000	Obama	Wakasa.
Masäda Keenoské	100,000	64,000	Togawa	Etjou.
*The Prince of Inaba, Matsudaira Inaba no Kami	100,000	64,000	Sikano Totori, Yonoka	Inaba, Houki.
The Prince of Mikawa, Matsudaira Mikawa no Kami	100,000	64,000	Tsouyama	Mimasakka.
The Prince of Isen, Abé Isen no Kami	100,000	64,000	Tokouyama	Bingo.
The Prince of Matsmai, Matsmai Sima no Kami	+		Matsmai	Island of Yesso.
The Prince of Totomi, Daté Totomi no Kami	100,000	64,000	Owadzima	Igo.

† Derives a considerable revenue from the fisheries and products of the chase, in the Island of Yesso, given to him as an appanage.

III.—Daimios possessing Land Revenues of from 100,000 to 60,000 kokous (64,000*l.* to 38,400*l.*) and Fortresses.

Daimios, with their names and Titles, taken from the "Official Almanack."	Their Revenues in Kokous of Rice.	In English Money.	Their Castles and Fortresses.	In the Province of	Remarks.
		£			
*The Prince of Tsousima, Tsousima no Kami ...	100,000	64,000	Foutchou	Tsouisima (Island of).	One of the Commanders of the Tycoon's Guard.
The Prince of Onémene, Tsouzya Onénemi no Kami, or Sono	95,000	60,800	Soutioura	Fitats . . .	
Matsdaïra Okionoské ...	82,000	52,480	Taka Sakié	Kodzouké.	
Makino Ghiobouno Sono ...	80,000	£1,200	Kasawa .	Fitats.	Member of the Council of the Mikado at the Tycoon's Court, and Governor of Courts of Justice, and Temples, and the Priests.
Matsdaïra Hiobonou taïou ...	80,000	51,200	Akaza ...	Arima.	
The Prince of Owi, Doi Owi no Kami ...	80,000	51,200	Touroukawa	Simosa.	
Onoyama Daisen Noské ...	78,000	49,920	Ghef ...	Mino . . .	Member of the Council of the Mikado at the Court of the Tycoon, and Governor of Courts of Justice, and Temples, and the Priests.
The Prince of Yamasiro, Toda Yamasiro no Kami ...	78,000	49,920	Outzrounomia	Simodzouké.	
Nakagawa Siouri no Taïou . . .	70,400	45,040	Oka ...	Boungo.	
The Prince of Itsou, Matsdaïra Itsou no Kami ...	70,000	44,800	Joshida .	Mikawa.	Member of the Council of the Mikado at the Court of the Tycoon, and Governor of Courts of Justice, and Temples, and the Priests.
The Prince of Bouzen, Makino Bouzen no Kami	70,000	44,800	Nagaonaka	Etsigo.	
Matsdaïra Yas no djo ...	70,000	44,800	Simabara	Fizen.	
The Prince of Noto, Naito Noto no Kami ...	70,000	44,800	Nobonoka	Chiouga.	Member of the Council of the Mikado at the Court of the Tycoon.
The Prince of Hoki, Matsdaïra Hoki no Kami ...	70,000	44,800	Myatsou	Tango ...	
Koussé Yamato no Kami ...	68,000	43,520	Séki-yado	Simosa ...	
The Prince of Iki, Matsdaïra Iki no Kami ...	61,000	39,040	Firando .	Firando (Island of).	Principal Minister of Foreign Affairs, member of the Gorogio since April 1860.
The Prince of Itsoumi, Matsdaïra Itsoumi no Kami .	60,000	38,400	Nishiou .	Mikawa.	
The Prince of Tonomo, Ishikawa Tonomo no Kami .	60,000	38,400	Kami-yamo	Ise or Idze.	
The Prince of Kawatchi, Inoé Kawatsi no Kami ...	60,000	38,400	Hama-matsou	Totomi ...	Member of the Council of the Mikado at the Court of the Tycoon.
The Prince of Ghiobou, Honda Ghiobou no taïou	60,000	38,400	Djen-shô	Oômi.	
The Prince of Tamba, Matsdaïra Tamba no Kami ...	60,000	38,400	Matsmoto	Sinano.	
The Prince of Tajima, Akimoto Tajima no Kami	60,000	38,400	Fatsi-Bajasi	Kodzouké.	
Soma Daisen Noské ...	60,000	38,400	Nakamoura	Oshiou.	

V.—Daimios possessing Land Revenues of from 60,000 to 50,000 kokous (38,400*l.* to 32,000*l.*) and Fortresses.

Daimios, with their Names and Titles taken from the "Official Almanack."	Their Revenues in Kokous of Rice.	In English Money.	Fortresses in their Possession.	In the Province of
		£		
The Prince of Soûo, Matsdaïra Soûo no Kami . . .	60,000	38,400	Tanagoura ..	Oshiou.
The Prince of Kasousa, Tosaoua Kasousa Noské	60,000	38,400	Sin ..	Dewa.
The Prince of Ki, Naito Ki no Kami† ..	60,000	38,400	Mourakami ..	Etsigo.
The Prince of Simosa, Owayama Simosa no Kami	60,000	38,400	Sinoyama ..	Tamba.
* Matsdaïra Oukou Schiogen	60,000	38,400	Hamada ..	Iwami.
The Prince of Satou, Oga Souara Satou no Kami	60,000	38,400	Karaouô ..	Fizen.
The Prince of Naïzen, Okabé Naïzen no Kami	59,000	37,760	Kishou Ouada	Idzoumi.
The Prince of Bitzu, Yenaba Bitzu no Kami ..	56,000	35,840	Oz en Kiné .	Boungo.
The Prince of Souri, Hoa Szuri no Taïou ..	51,000	32,640	Ebi ..	Chiouga.
The Prince of Dewa, Mitsouo Dewa no Kami† ..	50,000	32,000	Noumatzou ..	Sourouga.
The Prince of Iga, Matsdaïra Iga no Kami ..	50,000	32,000	Whouéda ..	Sinano.
The Prince of Totomi, Makino Totomi no Kami	50,000	32,000	Koumoso ..	Sinano.
The Prince of Sou, Hakoura Sou no Kami§ ..	50,000	32,000	Anaka ..	Kodzouké§
The Prince of Awa, Akita Awa no Kami ..	50,000	32,000	Miharo ..	Oshiou.
The Prince of Daïken, Midzouo Daïken Motzo, or Sakonsiogen	50,000	32,000	Yama-gata ..	Dewa.
The Prince of Chinga, Arima Chinga no Kami ..	50,000	32,000	Marôka ..	Etsizen.
The Prince of Fizen, Misogoudtzi Fizen no Kami	50,000	32,000	Sibata ..	Etsigo.
The Prince of Ki, Matsdaïra Ki no Kami ..	50,000	32,000	Kamiyama ..	Tamba.
The Prince of Awatsi, Wakisaka Awatsi no Kami	50,000	32,000	Tazouno ..	Harima.
The Prince of Soo, Hakoura Soo no Kami ..	50,000	32,000	Matsyama ..	Bitzou.
The Prince of Nagato, Kisgotou Nagata no Kami	50,000	32,000	Marougame .	Sanoki.
The Prince of Kai, Kourouda Kai no Kami ..	50,000	32,000	Akidzouki	Chikouzen.
Honda nakats kasa no taïou ..	50,000	32,000	Okasaki ..	Mikawa.
The Prince of Bitzu, Ota Bitzu no Kami|| ..	50,000	32,000	Kakégawa ..	Totomi.

† Member of the "Gorogio" since 1853.

‡ Messenger of State; Chief Aide-de-camp to the Tycoon since March 1859.

§ A Commander of the Tycoon's Guard.

|| Member of the Council of the Mikado at the Court of the Tycoon.

V.—Daimios possessing Land Revenues of from 46,000 to 25,000 kokous (29,440*l.* to 16,000*l.*) and Fortresses.

Daimios, with their Names and Titles, taken from the "Official Almanack."	Their Revenues in Kokous of Rice.	In English money.	Fortresses in their possession.	In the Provinces of
		£		
The Prince of Totomi, Nagai Totomi no Kami ..	46,000	29,440	Kotehing	} Setsou.
Matsdaïra Totomi no Kami ..	40,000	25,600	Amagasaki	
The Prince of Bouzen, Honda Bouzen no Kami* ..	40,000	25,600	Tanaka	Sourouga.
The Prince of Uoto, Doi Uoto no Kami† ..	40,000	25,600	Oue ..	Etsisen.
The Prince of Oki, Nishono Oki no Kami‡ ..	35,000	22,400	Tokooka	Totomi.
The Prince of Kawatchi, Makino Kawatchi no Kami‡ ..	35,000	22,400	Tanabé ..	Tango.
The Prince of Souragano, Matsdaïra Souragano Kami‡ ..	35,000	22,400	Iwadzi ..	Igo.
The Prince of Higo, Nagai Higo no Kami ..	32,000	20,480	Kano ..	Mino.
The Prince of Omi, Koutchidi Omi no Kami‡ ..	32,000	20,480	Foukoudgi Yama	Tamba.
The Prince of Setsou, Inagaki Setsou no Kami ..	30,000	19,200	Toba ..	Xima.
Matsdaïra Setsou no Kami ..	30,000	19,200	Takatzou ..	Mino.
The Prince of Noto, Matsdaïra Noto no Kami ..	30,000	19,200	Iouamoura	Mino.
The Prince of Sona, Sona Juaba no Kami ..	30,000	19,200	Takasima	Sinano.
The Prince of Tosi, Tosi Tambano Kami ..	30,000	19,200	Mibou ..	} Simodzouké.
The Prince of Okoubo, Okoubo Sado no Kami§ ..	30,000	19,200	Krani Yama	
The Prince of Itakoura, Itakoura Uaigeu no Sono§ ..	30,000	19,200	Toukousima	Oshiou.
The Prince of Nakaskasa, Matsdaïra Nakaskasa no Sono.	30,000	19,200	Kami Yama	Dewa.
The Prince of Hori, Hori Tambano Kami ..	30,000	19,200	Mouramatson	Etsigo.
The Prince of Saki, Matsdaïra Sakio no Taiou ..	30,000	19,200	Saidzio ..	Igo.
The Prince of Akidzouki, Akidzouki Sado no Kami ..	27,000	17,810	Saifou ..	Chouiga.
Omoura Tanga no Kami ..	25,000	16,000	Omoura	Fizen.
Kinosita Yamato no Kami ..	25,000	16,000	Shidé ..	Boungo.
Matsdaïra Sayemon no djô ..	25,000	16,000	Foumayé ..	Boungo.

* Member of the Council of the Mikado at the Court of the Tycoon.

† A Commander of the Tycoon's guard.

‡ Members of the Council of the Mikado at the Court of the Tycoon.

§ Commanders of the Tycoon's guard.

VI.—Daimios possessing Land Revenues of from 25,000 to 10,000 kokous (16,000*l.* to 6,400*l.*) and Fortresses.

Daimios, with their Names and Titles, taken from the "Official Almanack."	Their Revenues in Kokous of Rice.	In English Money.	Fortresses in their Possession.	In the Province of
		£		
The Prince of Oumoura, Oumoura Dewa no Kami ..	25,000	16,800	Takatori ..	Yamato.
The Prince of Nickawa, Mioura Bingo no Kami ..	23,000	14,720	Katzou-Yama ..	Mimasakka.
The Prince of Naito, Naito Sourouga no Kami* ..	23,000	14,720	Takato ..	Sinano.
The Prince of Ooka, Ooka Sizen no Kami ..	22,000		Ionaski ..	Morashi.
The Prince of Mionaké, Mionaké Tosan no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Taouara ..	Mikawa.
The Prince of Moari, Moari Awa no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Saeki ..	Boungo.
The Prince of Mori, Mori Etson no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Akô ..	Harima.
The Prince of Zengokou, Zengokou Sanoki no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Desi ..	Tadsima.
The Prince of Ghoinga, Matsdaïra Ghoinga no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Itowogawa ..	Etsigo.
The Prince of Rokougio, Rokougio Shioyo no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Hounguio ..	Dewa.
The Prince of Sakai, Sakai Sima no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Mayabashi ..	Kodzouké.
The Prince of Honda, Honda Bongo no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Hie Yama ..	Sinano.
The Prince of Omi, Ichikaoua Omi no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Simodate ..	Fitats.
The Prince of Tamba, Naito Tamba no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Kolomo ..	Mikawa.
The Prince of Kawatsi, Madsyama Kawatsi no Kami ..	20,000	12,800	Nagasima ..	Idzé.
The Prince of Shinga, Midzouno Shinga no Kami ..	18,000	11,520	Youki ..	Simosa.
The Prince of Etjou, Matsdaïra Etjou no Kami ..	17,000	10,880	Jeda ..	Sinano.
The Prince of Samouki, Matsdaïra Samouki no Kami ..	12,000	7,680	Takamatzo ..	Sanouki.
The Prince of Shieda, Otawara Shieda no Kami ..	11,000	7,040	Otaoura ..	Simozouké.
The Prince of Bittjou, Hota Bittjou no Kami ..	11,000	7,040	Sakoura ..	Simosa.
The Prince of Etjou, Matsdaïra Etjou no Kami ..	11,000	7,040	Konano ..	Idzé.
The Prince of Sakio, Noiona Sakio no Taiou ..	10,000	6,400	Nihou-Matz ..	Oshiou.
Hitotsou Yanaghé Niobonoské ..	10,000	6,400	Komadzou ..	Igo.
Godjima Saijemmo no Djo ..	12,000	7,680	Fukaï (Island of)	Fizen.
The Prince of Kawatchi, Matsdaïra Kawatchi no Kami ..	22,000	14,080	Kidziki ..	Boungo.
Shto Sayemmo no Dsio ..	22,000	14,080	Fkoui ..	Fizen.
The Prince of Simano, Sagara Simano Kami ..	22,000	14,080	Nagasa ..	Igo.
The Prince of Oki, Kame Oki no Kami ..	30,000	19,200	Tsouano ..	Iwami.

* A Commander of the Tycoon's Guard.

Mr. Alcock to Lord J. Russell.—(Received October 28.)

(Extract.)

Yeddo, August 25, 1861.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 16th instant, I avail myself of an unlooked-for opportunity to give the latest intelligence. I am the more desirous to do this, as the last few days have given opportunity of testing, in some degree, the sincerity of the Ministers, and the fruit to be anticipated from the impression manifestly made upon them in the conferences of the 14th and 15th instant.

I have been to Yokohama to meet Sakai Wookionoské. Your Lordship may remember he is a member of the Second Council, whom it was agreed should be sent that we might together make arrangements on the spot for the better carrying out of measures already agreed upon in February last, but not executed—especially the removal of certain grounds of complaint which had been discussed, chiefly referring to delays in granting permits, and want of system generally in the Custom-house, the want of a tariff for boat and coolie-hire, and of a better supply of cargo boats; finally, the absence of any effective efforts to enforce contracts when entered into with fraudulent Japanese traders. I profited by the opportunity, also, to obtain a site for a prison, and their consent to build it at once on the same terms as the Consulate, charging a *pro rata* rent. Also an improved line for a fine bund they had already commenced, according to previous agreement, along the whole of the new concession; the filling up of a marsh at the back; and various other local matters more or less important to the foreign residents. All these were satisfactorily arranged, after some discussion and mutual concessions; and I am further bound to say, nothing could be more decided, or less Japanese, than the prompt and friendly manner in which nearly all the subjects were dealt with.

This naturally took up much time, however, so that the conferences lasted two days. The first day we met at the official quarters of the Governor of Kanagawa, situated midway between Kanagawa and Yokohama, at the special request of Sakai Wookionoské.

The next day it was arranged, as I had no residence at Yokohama yet, and M. de Bellecourt had, that our second interview should take place there.

No. 11.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammett.—(Received October 31.)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, October 30, 1861.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of Sir James Hope's report on the state of our relations with Japan.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Report by Vice-Admiral Sir J. Hope on the State of our Relations with Japan.

THE Government of Japan, in its theocratic form, came into existence some centuries before the Christian era; the Mikado (now the spiritual Emperor) combining in his person a hereditary ecclesiastical authority with an absolute power over the feudal Princes whose territories composed his Empire.

In the middle of the twelfth century the turbulence of the feudal nobility led to the creation of the Tycoon (temporal Emperor), to whom the command of the military forces of the Empire was entrusted, and who, after dividing for some time the temporal power with the Mikado, ultimately retained exclusive possession of it.

Towards the end of the twelfth century the Throne of the Tycoon, the possession of which had undergone those vicissitudes to which, under the arrangement I have described, intrigue and violence would naturally lead, fell into the hands of Tyko Sama, a man of great ability and ambition, who appears to have reduced the country to subjection, on the footing, however, of the retention by twenty-four of the first-class Daimios (Princes), to whose assistance he had been indebted, of their extensive territories on a direct tenure from the Mikado, and rendering the remainder dependent on himself.

Some years after his death a revolution was effected, which placed the family of Prince Kiusiu on the Throne of the Tycoon, in whose possession it still remains, and since which

time, a period of nearly 300 years, the country has been free from civil war. It is, however, understood that the families of the Princes of Mito and Owarre are also eligible for the dignity, possibly on the ground of temporary possession during the period anterior to the accession of Tyko Sama, though on this point I am unable to speak with certainty.

A great Council, composed of all the Daimios in receipt of incomes of 30,000*l.* a-year and upwards, appears at present to have reduced the power of the Tycoon to a nullity, as it appoints the Gorogio, a Council of five Daimios, who, with a second Council of eight, conduct the public affairs, nominally as his Ministers; and therefore it would seem that the Government of the country is virtually vested in the predominant party amongst the Daimios, the Tycoon probably exerting a greater or less degree of power in proportion to his personal ability, the influence he can exercise amongst the Daimios, and that arising from the large possessions attached to his office, added to those of his family.

Offices of the highest class are held by third-class Daimios, and those of less importance by Daimios of lower grades, the entire number of all classes being said to amount to 360, and those of the first and second classes, who compose the Great Council, considering office inconsistent with their dignity; but the precise mode in which the two Executive Councils are named, or a change of Ministers is effected, I have been unable to ascertain.

The office of "Gotairo" (Regent) is hereditary in the family of Ikamono Kami, and while the Princes of Kanga and Mito are understood to hold rank superior to the Tycoon, all the twenty-four Daimios, who hold direct from the Mikado, consider themselves his equals, and own no allegiance to him.

The Mikado has large possessions, and Chiefs, who are termed "Yoyai," specially attached to him, but is stated to exercise no direct influence on public affairs, though the Tycoon still receives investiture from him.

It is understood, however, that Daimios who may be opposed to the Government of the day not unfrequently endeavour to turn such influence as he does possess to their own advantage, and to avail themselves of the prestige attached to his nominal supremacy.

Foreign intercourse with Japan commenced about the year 1560, by the Portuguese; lasted till about the year 1636, when it ceased on the final expulsion of all foreigners, except those belonging to the Dutch factory at Nagasaki, not on religious grounds, though Christianity had made great progress in Japan, but on the interference, real or supposed, of foreigners with the politics of the country.

It was again renewed by the Treaty of Commodore Perry in 1852, followed by that of Sir James Stirling; but neither of these went far to open Japan, which, however, was effectually done by Mr. Harris in 1858, closely followed by the Treaties of the other Western Powers.

The Treaty of the American Minister is said to have been obtained by the adroit use he made of the success of the English and French forces in China; and it is now very confidently stated, that neither at that nor any subsequent period has there existed any party amongst the ruling classes in Japan really friendly to foreign intercourse, but that while one party, with the Princes of Kanga and Mito at their head, would have opposed foreign intercourse at the point of the sword, the other accepted it as a lesser evil than foreign war, but always with the intention and in the hope of neutralising its effects, so far as circumstances would permit, for the present, and of eventually escaping from it at a future and more favourable opportunity.

The mass of the lower classes here, as in China, most assuredly evince no antipathy to Europeans when not prompted to do so by their rulers; and I apprehend that the trading classes are very favourable to foreign intercourse, foreseeing that, in addition to present profit, it may eventually improve their condition, now one of little estimation.

If the state of things I have described at all approaches the truth, it is not difficult to see why a confederacy of petty Princes, and a powerful nobility trained to political foresight by centuries of dependence and internal feuds, should view the renewal of foreign intercourse with an aversion assuredly not ill-founded. They may be well pardoned for the belief that it cannot raise them higher than they now are, while, by the elevation of the trading classes, and the introduction of levelling opinions to which it may give rise, their political position may eventually be seriously affected.

Foreign intercourse, 300 years ago, was a fertile source of dissensions and war; since it ceased, the land has had peace, and its renewal, unless much caution is exercised, appears likely to lead to its former results.

Shortly after the conclusion of Commodore Perry's Treaty, the Tycoon was assassinated. After that of Mr. Harris, his successor was poisoned by Prince Mito, with the view of availing himself of the hostile feeling against foreigners to place his nephew on the Throne. Being thwarted by the Gotairo, who succeeded in installing a minor, the

present Tycoon, a prince of Kiusu, the Prince of Mito caused the Gotairo to be murdered by a party of twenty of his followers in broad daylight, when entering the official quarter of the city, followed by 500 men. In revenge the Prince of Mito was subsequently assassinated by a follower of the Gotairo; and, finally, the British Legation is attacked by a party of men, said to be followers of the deceased Prince Mito, and sworn by him to carry out his feelings of enmity to foreigners.

Betsum Kami, Minister when Mr. Harris' Treaty was concluded, is now degraded. Bungom Kami, Minister when Lord Elgin's Treaty was made, has disappeared, since which period there have also been two changes of Ministers; and of six Commissioners who concluded the British Treaty, two only remain in office, one notoriously anti-foreign in feeling.

To what precise extent these events are due to the establishment of foreign intercourse, it is impossible to say, but that they are universally attributed to it among the Japanese, I believe to be true, and that amongst them a wide-spread impression prevails of impending evil from dissensions, and evil of civil war arising from the same cause.

The papers laid before Parliament show that our relations with the Government have been very much what might have been anticipated. On the one hand, a Government regretting an intercourse into which it had been entrapped, and availing itself of every occasion to restrict it; on the other, a perpetual struggle on the part of the Ministers to obtain the full exercise of the rights conceded by the Treaty.

In regard to the assassinations of individuals which have taken place, I conceive them to be due far more to private than political motives. That of Mr. Alcock's Japanese linguist would appear to have been owing, in all probability, to some act of folly in his intercourse, which was marked by singular arrogance and impudence in violating their most cherished prejudices. The murder of the Russians is attributed to a Japanese official who, with his family, was degraded at the instance of Count Mouravieff, in consequence of some insult offered to the Russians in the streets of Yeddo. The assassination of the American Secretary of Legation is said to have been committed by a Daimio's retainer, struck by him in the street, who, on returning to his master's, was asked how he dared to do so after receiving a blow which was still unavenged.

That the conduct of foreigners has been of a description well calculated to lower their own character, and excite the hostility of the Japanese, is sufficiently evident from the papers laid before Parliament. British, French, and Dutch Consuls have some power to control their countrymen, and exercise it. American Consuls, if they have the power, which I doubt, so far as I am aware, never use it.

The Japanese Government have now dispatched a letter to the Queen from the Tycoon, of which Mr. Oliphant is the bearer, stating that he is desirous of some postponement of the rights conceded by the British Treaty, owing to the discontent to which those already granted have given rise; and in a letter addressed to Mr. Alcock by the Government, on the same subject, in which it is gone into at greater length, they state that they are desirous that the opening to foreigners of the city of Yeddo, the port of Osaka, and that on the western coast of Japan, should be postponed for a period of seven years, during which time they hope the discontent of the people will be allayed; this discontent they ascribe to the increase in the price of rice, the food of the people, to threefold that which existed when foreign intercourse commenced, and the drain upon their resources which foreign trade has created.

I believe Mr. Alcock is inclined to recommend that this request shall be favourably received by Her Majesty's Government, in the expediency of which I concur; observing that the concession should be made distinctly conditional on the faithful performance by the Japanese Government of those obligations which will still remain incumbent upon them.

It appears highly probable that all the silk and tea available for exportation finds its way by the coasting trade from Hiogo and Osaka either to Yokohama or Nagasaki.

To open the port of Hiogo, which no doubt is in the neighbourhood of the chief producing districts, would, for the present at any rate, not increase the amount of the trade, but merely change the port of exportation, very much, however, to the injury of the hundreds of junks which would thus be thrown out of employment; and this no doubt is one cause, and a very reasonable one, of the dislike with which the measure of opening Hiogo to trade is received by both Government and people.

I may add an instance of the inconvenience to which foreign intercourse subjects the Japanese. The passage of a foreigner along a road renders it unfit for the Tycoon; before he can pass over it, the road must be broken up and re-made.

Now the Tycoon should go to Miako to marry the Mikado's daughter, but the foreigner Alcock has passed over the road, and therefore, in accordance with Japanese

customs, it should be re-made; but this will be very expensive indeed, and the Government are consequently in a dilemma, and it has even been proposed that the Tycoon should proceed by sea.

(Signed)

J. HOPE, *Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.*

August 20, 1861.

No. 12.

Earl Russell to Mr. Alcock.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 11, 1861.

MR. OLIPHANT arrived at this office on the 28th ultimo.

I am unable to send you by the present mail any definite instructions with reference to the important matters referred to in your despatches; but I hope, after having submitted the questions involved in them to the consideration of Her Majesty's confidential servants, to be able to give you such instructions by the mail of the 26th instant.

Those instructions will probably reach you before the end of January; and as soon after the receipt of them as you have done what may be immediately required for their execution, you may, if you still desire to do so, return to England on leave of absence.

No. 13.

Earl Russell to Mr. Alcock.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 23, 1861.

THE important despatch which was brought by Mr. Oliphant, dated the 16th of August, has been laid before the Queen, and has been the subject of serious deliberation by Her Majesty's confidential advisers.

Your previous despatches contain accounts relating to the attempt made by a body of conspirators to enter the house of Her Majesty's Minister by night, and to murder all the members of Her Majesty's Legation.

Your present despatch contains also a proposal of the Japanese Government that Her Majesty should abandon or suspend for seven years the right of frequenting two ports and two cities; a right which is secured by Treaty. A letter of the Tycoon to the Queen asks Her Majesty to consent to this concession.

The juxta-position of these two matters is embarrassing. A murderous attack has been directed against Her Majesty's Legation; several persons fell in this attempt, but those who survived and were prisoners have been suffered to escape. At the same time the Ministers of Japan, who have been unable to guard Her Majesty's Legation from the late attempt, and who give no guarantee against any future project of assassination, ask Her Majesty to forego her Treaty rights. It would seem that such a concession would have too much the air of an indemnity for past outrages, and impunity, if not encouragement, to future murderous assaults; at the same time Her Majesty's Government are ready to give full weight to the facts which tend to exculpate the Japanese Government, and to your recommendations of concession accompanied by conditions.

From the best evidence which has been procured, it may be inferred that the Japanese Government were not themselves accomplices in the attack upon the Legation.

I draw this inference chiefly from two striking facts: first, it is obvious that the murderers had no local knowledge of the premises; had they possessed such knowledge you (your bedroom windows being open) and the principal members of the Legation might have been murdered without difficulty; secondly, the yaonins placed to defend the Legation by the Government, when made aware of the attack by the fire from Mr. Morrison's revolver, behaved with great gallantry. One of the yaonins was killed, and eight were wounded in the endeavour to kill or capture the murderers.

But while Her Majesty's Government allow that the Japanese Ministers were innocent of any participation in the assault, they cannot shut their eyes to the frightful state of insecurity of life in Japan. It is recorded that two Tycoons and a Regent have been murdered in the course of a few years; these murders have been committed by the servants and emissaries of certain great land-owners called Daimios. It is currently believed among the Japanese that one of the Daimios was the employer of the party of assassins who aimed at your life, and that of the members of Her Majesty's Legation residing at Yeddo on the faith of Treaties and protected by your inviolable character as Her Majesty's Envoy. It is to

be noted that even were the proposed concession made, no security would thereby be gained.

In these circumstances it is very difficult to make any concession. Let us consider, however, what is asked. The Tycoon, in his letter to Her Majesty the Queen, says that there are various objections to the opening of the ports of Hiogo and Nee-egata, and to the carrying on of trade in the cities of Yeddo and Osaka at the time appointed by the Treaty.

The objections which are thus hinted at, and not expressed, consist in the apprehension of public discontent and possible political revolution. These dangers it is difficult here to appreciate at their true value; but it appears to Her Majesty's Government that if, in order to comply with the wishes of the Tycoon, and appease public discontent in Japan, these concessions are to be made, a full equivalent should be obtained. This full equivalent should consist, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government—

1st. In the opening of the ports of Tsusima and the neighbouring coast of Corea, so far as Japanese authority extends, to the trade of the Treaty Powers.

2ndly. In a concession of land at Yeddo sufficient for the residence of Her Majesty's Minister; this residence to be secured by walls and palisades, and a British guard to be constantly maintained therein for the safety of the persons belonging to Her Majesty's Legation; and in an addition to the land now assigned for British occupation at Yokohama if you should consider it expedient to require it.

3rdly. A pecuniary indemnity to Mr. Oliphant and Mr. Morrison for the injuries they sustained in the murderous attack of the 5th of July.

4thly. The miscreants who escaped after the attack of the 5th of July to be apprehended and brought to trial, and, if convicted, to suffer condign punishment.

It is impossible, at this distance of space, and with a greater distance of manners and customs from those of Japan, to require in the form of an ultimatum a precise compliance with these instructions. But you will understand from their spirit that you are not to make concessions without equivalents; that so far from restricting or abandoning the trade of Japan, you are to maintain and, if possible, enlarge it, and that you are to preserve undiminished the reputation of the British name.

You will, of course, communicate with the Envoys and Consuls of other Treaty Powers before you treat with the Japanese Ministers.

I have only further to add that your conduct is entirely approved by Her Majesty, and that the greatest confidence is felt here in your ability and firmness.

6 A 1 A 1 N.
CORRESPONDENCE respecting Affairs in Japan.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1862.*

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

CONVENTION
BETWEEN
HER MAJESTY,
THE
QUEEN OF SPAIN,
AND THE
EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH,
RELATIVE TO
COMBINED OPERATIONS
AGAINST
MEXICO.

Signed at London, October 31, 1861.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

CONVENTION between Her Majesty, the Queen of Spain, and the
Emperor of the French, relative to Combined Operations
against Mexico.

Signed at London, October 31, 1861.

[Ratifications exchanged at London, November 15, 1861.]

SA Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, se trouvant placées par la conduite arbitraire et vexatoire des autorités de la République du Mexique dans la nécessité d'exiger de ces autorités une protection plus efficace pour les personnes et les propriétés de leurs sujets, ainsi que l'exécution des obligations contractées envers elles par la République du Mexique, se sont entendues pour conclure entre elles une Convention dans le but de combiner leur action commune, et, à cet effet, ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir :

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, le Très Honorable Jean Comte Russell, Vicomte Amberley de Amberley et Ardsalla, Pair du Royaume Uni, Conseiller de Sa Majesté Britannique en Son Conseil Privé, Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté pour les Affaires Etrangères ;

Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, Don Xavier de Isturiz y Montero, Chevalier de l'Ordre insigne du Toison d'Or, Grand-Croix de l'Ordre Royal et distingué de Charles III, de l'Ordre Impérial de la Légion d'Honneur de France, des Ordres de la Conception de Villaviciosa et Christ de Portugal, Sénateur du Royaume, ancien Président du Conseil de Ministres et Premier Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Catholique, et Son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté Britannique ;

Et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, Son Excellence le Comte de Flahault de la Billarderie, Sénateur, Général de Division, Grand-Croix de la Légion d'Honneur, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire de Sa Majesté Impériale près Sa Majesté Britannique ;

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué réciproquement leurs pleins pouvoirs respectifs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont tombés d'accord pour arrêter les Articles suivants :—

ARTICLE I.

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, s'engagent à arrêter aussitôt après la signature de la présente Convention, les dispositions nécessaires pour envoyer sur les côtes du Mexique des forces de terre et de mer combinées dont l'effectif sera déterminé par un échange ultérieur de communications entre leurs Gouvernements, mais dont l'ensemble devra être suffisant pour pouvoir saisir et occuper les différentes forteresses et positions militaires du littoral Mexicain.

Les Commandants des forces alliées seront, en outre, autorisés à accomplir les autres opérations qui seraient jugées, sur les lieux, les plus propres à réaliser le but spécifié dans le préambule de la présente Convention, et notamment à assurer la sécurité des résidents étrangers.

Toutes les mesures dont il s'agit dans cet Article seront prises, au nom et pour le compte des Hautes Parties Contractantes, sans acception de la nationalité particulière des forces employées à les exécuter.

ARTICLE II.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à ne rechercher pour elles-mêmes, dans l'emploi des mesures coercitives prévues par la présente Convention, aucune acquisition de territoire ni aucun avantage particulier, et à n'exercer, dans les affaires intérieures du Mexique, aucune influence de nature à porter atteinte au droit de la nation Mexicaine de choisir et de constituer librement la forme de son Gouvernement.

ARTICLE III.

Une Commission composée de trois Commissaires, un nommé par chacune des Puissances Contractantes, sera établie avec plein pouvoir de statuer sur toutes les questions que pourrait soulever l'emploi ou la distribution des sommes d'argent qui seront recouvrées au Mexique, en ayant égard aux droits respectifs des trois Parties Contractantes.

ARTICLE IV.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes désirant, en outre, que les mesures qu'elles ont l'intention d'adopter n'aient pas un caractère exclusif, et sachant que le Gouvernement des Etats Unis a, de son côté, des réclamations à faire valoir, comme elles, contre la République Mexicaine, conviennent qu'aussitôt après la signature de la présente Convention, il en sera communiqué une copie au Gouvernement des Etats Unis ; que ce Gouvernement sera invité à y accéder ; et qu'en prévision de cette accession leurs Ministres respectifs à Washington seront immédiatement munis de pleins pouvoirs à l'effet de conclure et de signer, collectivement ou séparément, avec le Plénipotentiaire désigné par le Président des Etats Unis, une Convention identique, sauf suppression du présent Article, à celle qu'elles signent à la date de ce jour. Mais comme les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'exposeraient, en apportant quelque retard à la mise à exécution des Articles I et II de la présente Convention, à manquer le but qu'elles désirent atteindre, elles sont tombées d'accord de ne pas différer, en vue d'obtenir l'accession du Gouvernement des Etats Unis, le commencement des opérations sus-mentionnées au delà de l'époque à laquelle leurs forces combinées pourront être réunies dans les parages de Vera Cruz.

ARTICLE V.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée, et les ratifications en seront échangées à Londres, dans le délai de quinze jours.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs l'ont signé, et y ont apposé le sceau de leurs armes.

Fait à Londres, en triple original, le trente-unième jour du mois d'Octobre, de l'an de grace mil huit cent soixante-un.

(L.S.)	RUSSELL.
(L.S.)	XAVIER DE ISTURIZ.
(L.S.)	FLAHAULT.

(Translation.)

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, and His Majesty the Emperor of the French, feeling themselves compelled by the arbitrary and vexatious conduct of the authorities of the Republic of Mexico to demand from those authorities more efficacious protection for the persons and properties of their subjects, as well as a fulfilment of the obligations contracted towards their Majesties by the Republic of Mexico, have agreed to conclude a Convention with a view to combine their common action, and, for this purpose, have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honourable John Earl Russell, Viscount Amberley of Amberley and Ardsalla, a Peer of the United Kingdom, a Member of Her Britannic Majesty's Privy Council, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs ;

Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, Don Xavier de Isturiz y Montero, Knight of the Illustrious Order of the Golden Fleece, Grand Cross of the Royal and Distinguished Order of Charles III, of the Imperial Order of the Legion of Honour of France, of the Orders of the Conception of Villaviciosa and Christ of Portugal, Senator of the Kingdom, late President of the Council of Ministers, and First Secretary of State of Her Catholic

Majesty, and Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Her Britannic Majesty ;

And His Majesty the Emperor of the French, his Excellency the Count de Flahault de la Billarderie, Senator, General of Division, Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, His Imperial Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary to Her Britannic Majesty ;

Who, after having reciprocally communicated their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles :—

ARTICLE I.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, and His Majesty the Emperor of the French, engage to make, immediately after the signature of the present Convention, the necessary arrangements for dispatching to the coasts of Mexico, combined naval and military forces, the strength of which shall be determined by a further interchange of communications between their Governments, but of which the total shall be sufficient to seize and occupy the several fortresses and military positions on the Mexican coast.

The Commanders of the allied forces shall be, moreover, authorized to execute the other operations which may be considered, on the spot, most suitable to effect the object specified in the preamble of the present Convention, and specifically to ensure the security of foreign residents.

All the measures contemplated in this Article shall be taken in the name and on account of the High Contracting Parties, without reference to the particular nationality of the forces employed to execute them.

ARTICLE II.

The High Contracting Parties engage not to seek for themselves, in the employment of the coercive measures contemplated by the present Convention, any acquisition of territory nor any special advantage, and not to exercise in the internal affairs of Mexico any influence of a nature to prejudice the right of the Mexican nation to choose and to constitute freely the form of its Government.

ARTICLE III.

A Commission composed of three Commissioners, one to be named by each of the Contracting Powers, shall be established with full authority to determine all questions that may arise as to the application or distribution of the sums of money which may be recovered from Mexico, having regard to the respective rights of the three Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE IV.

The High Contracting Parties desiring, moreover, that the measures which they intend to adopt should not bear an exclusive character, and being aware that the Government of the United States on its part has, like them, claims to enforce upon the Mexican Republic, agree that immediately after the signature of the present Convention a copy thereof shall be communicated to the Government of the United States ; that that Government shall be invited to accede to it ; and that in anticipation of that accession their respective Ministers at Washington shall be at once furnished with full powers for the purpose of concluding and signing, collectively or separately, with the Plenipotentiary designated by the President of the United States, a Convention identic, save the suppression of the present Article, with that which they sign this day. But as by delaying to put into execution Articles I and II of the present Convention, the High Contracting Parties would incur a risk of failing in the object which they desire to attain, they have agreed not to defer, with the view of obtaining the accession of the Government of the United States, the commencement of the above-mentioned operations beyond the time at which their combined forces can be assembled in the neighbourhood of Vera Cruz.

ARTICLE V.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at London within fifteen days.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at London, in triplicate, the thirty-first day of the month of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

(L.S.)	RUSSELL.
(L.S.)	XAVIER DE ISTURIZ.
(L.S.)	FLAHAULT.

DESPATCHES

RELATING TO

BRITISH CLAIMS ON MEXICO.

Presented to the House of Lords by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

3017

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Despatches relating to British Claims on Mexico.

No. 1.

Mr. Mathew to Lord J. Russell.—(Received May 28.)

My Lord,

Mexico, April 30, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the list of claims against Mexico received up to the present time by Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Glennie, to whom I directed they should be sent, by a circular from Jalapa, to the various Consular functionaries, immediately on the re-establishment of the present Government in the capital.

It is, however, but right to mention that, owing to a variety of circumstances, the above list presents but an approximate total, which cannot possibly be verified at the present moment.

I cannot conclude this despatch without bringing to your Lordship's notice, in terms of warm commendation, the laborious duty Mr. Glennie has so well fulfilled in preparing these various claims for presentation to the Commission proposed for their liquidation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW.

Inclosure in No. 1.

LIST of British Claims against the Mexican Government, which have been sent in to Her Majesty's Consulate at Mexico, up to the 28th April, 1861.

			£	c.	£	c.
Manning and Mackintosh	..	..	..	..	16,277,996	0
Innes, Fenochio, and Co.	..	Breach of contract, and consequences	30,948	47		
		Balance of sum owing by Mexican Government, on loan	12,003	00	42,951	47
Thomas Fuller	..	Embargoes of mule trappings, &c., and consequences	..	..	8,000	0
William Hooper	..	Plundered by troops	..	..	3,000	0
Henry Dalton	..	Forced supplies and cash to Mexican Government (now under arrangement by Bourdillon and Moran)	..	..	112,573	65
Charles B. Lambley	..	Plunder, twice	2,111	50		
		Plunder, horses, &c.	725	0	2,836	50
Thomas Gillow	..	Plunder, embargoes, &c.	..	..	16,469	96
John Innes	..	1858. Spoliation	1,600	0		
		Interest to 31st January, 1861	288	0		
		1860. Spoliation, sacking, and persecution	22,519	0		
		Interest to 31st January, 1861	1,125	95	25,532	95
Daniel Owen	..	Plunder by soldiers, 1858	5,618	50		
		Interest, thirty-six months from 28th of April, 1858, to 28th April, 1861, equal to 18 per cent.	1,011	33	6,629	83

		\$	c.	\$	c.
Watermeyer, Kauffmann, and Co.	Extra duties in 1859	5,545	32		
	Contributions	2,988	62½		
	"Contribucion de Patente"	504	0		
	Illegal duty on cochineal	829	50		
J. T. Perry and Co. ..	Extra duties and plunder			9,867	44½
Bates, Barton, and Co. ..	Matamoros fire claim	64,632	12½	854	76
	Unliquidated balance of Government order	12,879	50		
	Extra duties, contributions, &c.	8,199	75		
	San Acacio claim	57,908	0		
Charles Whitehead ..	Vera Cruz Custom-house fire, forced loans, supplies, illegal export duty, and "Consumo" duty			143,619	37½
Graham, Geaves, & Co. ..	Extra duties, Guadalajara "conducta," and contributions			561,069	2
Charles Haghenbeck, for James Dawson	Extra duties			25,291	97
George Ainslie ..	Contracts for work for Mexican Government (has other claims)			15,509	89
Young, Harrison, and Bevan ..	Breach of contract			49,051	0
James Evans ..	Breach of contract, balance of an account	5,346	0	115,000	0
	Interest from 28th April, 1859, to 28th April, 1861, equal to 12 per cent.	641	52		
J. J. Schmidt and Co..	Avalos Tariff, extra duties (their own and others), forced loans, contributions, &c.			5,987	52
Elliott Turnbull ..	Papers returned to him at his request.			66,402	67
Joseph O. Forns ..	Forced loans, breach of contract, forced supplies, wounds, and imprisonment			179,104	7
David Morn ..	Embargoes and plunder			2,480	0
William Grant, John Mitchell, and Peter Mallon	Contributions			435	25
Claude A. Innes ..	Forced loans, persecution, and outrage			2,634	0
Alexander Grant ..	"Consumo" duty			21,984	30
Adam Turnbull ..	Contributions			641	82
Barron, Forbes, and Co. ..	Guadalajara "conducta"			98,330	60
William Duncan ..	Contributions and seizure of arms and effects			816	87
Thomas R. Auld and English workmen and miners	Contributions			5,025	0
Pasqual Fenochio ..	Contribution, forced supplies, arms, &c.			5,605	0
Alex. O. Stevenson ..	Plunder, interruption of carrying business, &c.			3,227	50
Widow of Mr. Lancaster Jones ..	Arrears of salary with interest (acknowledged claim)			41,884	0
John Burnand ..	Stoppage of factory, plunder, mutilation.			32,089	50
John Miller..	Spoilation, sacking, outrage			2,305	0
Grandison and Elliott..	Depredations on their property by soldiers in 1855	4,981	0		
	Interest from August 31, 1855, to March 31, 1861, 5½ years, at 6 per cent., equal to 33 per cent.	1,643	73		
	(Have other claims.)			6,624	73
William Henry Chynowith ..	Denegation of justice, with loss of time in law courts, and expenses			51,336	0
Peter Hale ..	Money and supplies to army			249,326	55
John Fitzmaurice ..	Forwarded by Mr. Consul Giffard in his despatch No. 3 of 1860, to Her Majesty's Legation	637	19		
	Further damages	1,300	0		
John Chynowith ..	Tax on mining shares			1,937	19
William Moran ..	"Spoliated Copper Fund"			1,278	87
John Sumner ..	Plunder, sacking, and depredations	368	0	20,812	0
	Interest from April 28, 1859, to April 28, 1861, equal to 12 per cent.	44	16		
Stephen Bennett ..	Contributions and illegal taxes.			412	16
James Randell ..	Plunder, outrage, including threats upon lives of himself and wife, with indemnity			94	0
Thomas Ritchie, through Barron and Forbes	Papers in Her Majesty's Legation about claim in 1856, for			10,750	0
	Subsequent claims for outrage and imprisonment, no sum specified.			4,000	0
Barron, Forbes and Co. ..	Further forthcoming claim from Tepic.				

Indemnities.

		\$	c.	\$	c.
Charles Whitehead	..	12,000	0		
John Potts	..	20,000	0		
Thomas Worrall	..	15,000	0		
Widow of Dr. Duval	..	25,000	0		
George Selley	..	(?)			
Francis Breakenridge	..	(?)			
Stephen Bennett	Murdered	(?)			
Edward Bodmer	Ditto	(?)			
Richard Rule	Ditto	(?)			
Oetling and Co.	Seizure of property	..		72,000	0
Sundry persons in Real del Monte and Pachuca	Interested in claim for robbery of Alexander O. Stevenson's waggons by General Carbajal's troops	..		35,182	6
Beckett Hampshire	Ill-treatment and imprisonment by Vicario in Iguala	(?)		4,038	80
William Hay	Texoco claim; pending.	..			
Edward Hay	Embargo for contributions	..		175	0

From Mr. Vice-Consul Alexander's List. Zacatecas.

English Mining Company "El Bote"	Forced loans, illegal detention of conducta, contributions, war taxes, &c. ..	12,410	11½		
	Plus indemnity, &c. ..				
Anglo-Mexican Mint Company ..	Forced loans, &c. ..	13,186	75		
William Newall	Forced loans, outrages, imprisonment, sentence of death, &c. ..	131,082	26		
Alexander and Co.	Forced loans, illegal duties, &c. ..	5,953	20		
Archibald McGoun	Forced loans	178	25		
Dr. Thos. F. Jenkin	Ditto	200	0		
W. T. Lister	Ditto	105	97½		
Martin Uren	Ditto	126	5		
Sundry English Miners at Fresno	Ditto	188	84		
nillo				163,431	44

From Mr. Consular Agent Chabot's List. San Luis Potosi.

Frederick Staines	Spoliation, contributions	10,486	47		
Simpson and Pitman	Occupation of bales of goods for fortifications, contributions, &c. ..	5,231	87		
Chabot, Brothers	Forced loans and tax on rent	1,117	50		
Davies and Co.	Forced loans, contributions, and tax on house-rent	1,740	19		
Walter Henry	Double duties	1,958	6½		
				20,534	9½

From Mr. Consular Agent Glass' List. Guanajuato.

Charles Birkbeck	Contributions on grinding mills and on capital	1,309	0		
Alexander Cumming	Contribution on grinding mills and extra duties on silver	2,286	30		
Charles T. Furber	Contribution on grinding mills, horses plundered, &c. ..	4,765	50		
John H. Glass	Tax on capital	58	80		
Matthew Redmond	Sack of his house	280	0		
Robert R. Traill	Losses in farm, contributions, &c. ..	17,355	34		
United Mexican Mining Company	Sack, tax on grinding mills, plunder of horses and fodder	6,043	8		
Anglo-Mexican Mint Company ..	Loss of coinage from illegal exportation of bullion, under permit from Vidaurri ..	(?)		32,098	2
Blacker, Uhde, and Co.	Robbery of bullion by General Vidaurri ..	..		12,000	0
Robert Nixon	Breach of contract	..		400	0
John S. Bengough	Avalos tariff	..		11,550	0
				18,583,187	83½

Some further claims have to be sent in, and interest has to be added to many comprised in this list, including several of those which were forwarded by this Consulate to Her Majesty's Legation under date of the 28th April, 1859.

No. 2.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.)

Orizaba, April 20, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the Schedule* of British outstanding claims.

Inclosures Nos. 1 to 6 contain, besides the actual list, some remarks upon the claims themselves.

Inclosures Nos. 7 and 8 contain certain emendations in that list, which, after consultation with Mr. Glennie, I thought it advisable to introduce.

Your Lordship will remark that the claims are here divided into five classes, but I have in presenting them reduced the five classes to two: 1. Claims recognized by Mexico, and about which there can be no question; 2. Such as require examination in their details before a Mixed Commission.

I have added a saving clause for such claims as may not yet have been forwarded from distant places, or absent persons, to the Legation or Consulate.

When I arrived here, I at once desired Mr. Consul Glennie to join me with all the information he could bring to bear upon the subject, and I am convinced that nobody could have worked out this very complicated business with greater care and impartiality than he has shown in executing his task.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Consul Glennie to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Mexico, April 5, 1862.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 27th ultimo, relative to British claims against the Mexican Government, in which I am instructed to transmit to you, as soon as possible, a Schedule of those claims, classified according to the directions given in your despatch.

In consequence of the peculiar circumstances under which many of the claims in my possession had their origin, and the shape in which they were transmitted to me, I have taken it upon myself to divide them into five classes, instead of the three indicated, and I venture to hope that on examination, the classification made by me will merit your approval.

In compliance, therefore, with your directions, I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith inclosed, a Statement of such British claims as have come into my possession up to the 4th instant, divided into the following classes, viz. :—

	Dollars.	c.
Class 1.—Claims recognized by the Mexican Government	1,350,833	71
Class 2.—Claims supported by the British Government	802,411	81
Class 3.—Claims not yet recognized, but apparently based upon just grounds. . . .	649,174	51
Class 4.—Claims of a doubtful nature	530,368	69
Class 5.—Claims for which no amount has been stated	..	..
	3,332,788	72
To which I have to add:—Notice received, after I had closed my list, of a claim presented by Mr. Bourdillon, as representative of Mr. Dalton (copy of which I inclose) amounting to	13,552	70
Making a total of	3,346,341	42

I have also, at the last moment, been informed, by Mr. Francis Morphy, that he holds in his possession, and will furnish me with a Statement of British claims to the amount of from 130,000 to 140,000 dollars. Mr. Morphy informed me at the same time that he had already spoken to you on the subject of these claims.

With regard to the Mackintosh claims, I applied to Mr. Bourdillon, as the agent for the parties interested therein, for the information you require respecting them, and I have the honour to inclose to you copy of a letter which Mr. Bourdillon has addressed me on

* This Schedule does not comprise claims of bondholders and others for arrears of interest.

the subject, and of the Statement of these claims which he embodied in his communication, but which, for greater convenience, I transmit to you separate.

By that Statement you will see that after striking out the Tamaulipas Waste Lands claim (for 7,953,722 dollars), as being of foreign origin, the claims of Messrs. Manning and Mackintosh amounted, in March 1858, to 8,324,275 dollars, to which sum a further amount for interest will have to be added. From Mr. Bourdillon's letter you will also learn that he has not been able to obtain information as to the amount of said claims which has actually been recognized by the Mexican Government.

In Class 1 of British Claims you will perceive that I have included the Laguna Seca claim, and the Capuchinas robbery.

For your information respecting the former, I beg to inclose a Statement of that claim, with interest, calculated to the 31st ultimo, showing an amount to the credit of the claimants on that date of 248,880 dollars 91 cents.

With reference to Class 4, will you allow me to express the hope that it will not be supposed that any doubt as to the right intention of the parties therein mentioned has been entertained by me? I have placed them in that class because I do not sufficiently comprehend the merits of their respective claims, and am consequently unable to assign them any other place.

Interest.—With the exception of one or two cases in which it is specified that none is expected, all the claimants appear to be under the impression that the amounts of their several claims are gaining interest from the dates of their respective origin. The addition of such interest to the numerous claims contained in my list would of course swell the sum total very considerably; but as a mere compiler of British claims I have not considered myself authorized to do more than report them in the shape in which they were presented to me. In the majority of cases, however, the interest has been added by the claimants themselves up to the dates of the transmission of their claims to this Consulate.

On the other hand, some parties have merely expressed the hope that they will be allowed the benefit of legal interest, not only as a compensation for the illegality of the acts which gave origin to their claims, but also from the fact that the same amounts would in their own hands have produced (at least) the interest claimed by them.

The foregoing observations will, I trust, suffice to show that the Schedule which I have the honour to forward with this despatch does not represent a final total amount of British claims against the Mexican Government; and I deem it necessary to add, that in my opinion other claims will at a later date be transmitted to the Consulate, and which have only been delayed by the total absence of postal communication with remote parts of the Republic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. GLENNIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

SCHEDULE OF BRITISH CLAIMS.

Class 1.—Claims recognized by the Mexican Government.

			Dollars	c.
Innes, Fenochio, and Co. . .	..	Balance of Loan to Government of Oaxaca ..	12,003	0
Barron, Forbes, and Co. . .	..	Robbery of Guadalajara Conducta by Marquez ..	*98,330	60
Graham, Geaves, and Co. . .	..	Ditto	1,110	10
Alexander Grant ..	..	Ditto	1,152	43
Nathaniel Davidson ..	..	Ditto	585	81
Bates, Barton, and Co. . .	..	Matamoros fire, and Government order claims ..	77,511	62
Charles Whitehead ..	..	Tampico "Goods Claim" ..	14,743	20
Henry Dalton ..	..	Balance of "Army Supplies Claims" ..	87,516	0
George Ainslie ..	..	Contracts for Plumbers' work ..	\$55,172	60
		Credit against "Camino y Peages" ..	32,330	44
United Mexican Mining Company..		San Acasio claim up to October 31, 1861 ..	87,503	4
			61,497	0
Laguna Seca ..	..	Due to claimants on March 31, 1862 ..	441,952	80
Capuchinas robbery ..	..		248,880	91
			660,000	0
			1,350,833	71

(E. and O. E.)

Mexico, April 4, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

Class 2.—Claims supported by the British Government.

			Dollars	c.
J. J. Schmidt and Co. . .	..	Avalos Tariff ..	56,872	42
J. S. Bengough ..	..	Ditto. Sum stated in Mr. Bacon's letter to Sir Charles L. Wyke, of November 30, 1861, is 44,680 dollars 32 c. Mr. Lettsom demanded of Mexican Government, August 26, 1856 ..	11,550	0
		(For remainder, see Class 4.) ..		
Innes Fenochio and Co. . .	..	Their silver-bars claim ..	30,948	47
Charles Whitehead ..	..	Vera Cruz Custom-house fire claim ..	102,999	50
Ditto ..	..	Forced loan in 1836 ..	555	99
Ditto ..	..	As Agent for claimants for "Consumo Duty," illegally exacted ..	437,085	43
Young, Harrison, and Bevan ..	..	Mahogany-cutting; breach of contract ..	115,000	0
Robert Nixon ..	..	Arrears; service in Mexican army ..	400	0
Thomas Worrall ..	..	Indemnity for expulsion ..	15,000	0
Charles Whitehead ..	..	Ditto ..	12,000	0
John Potts ..	..	Ditto ..	20,000	0
			802,411	81

(E. and O. E.)

Mexico, April 4, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

* Including 8,966 dollars belonging to Mr. Doyle.

Class 3.—Claims not yet recognized, but apparently based upon just grounds.

			Dollars	c.
Pascual Fenocho	Forced loans; contributions; seizure of property ..	5,605	0	
John T. Innes.. ..	Forced loans; Cobos and officers quartered upon him; sack of his house; burning of stores; ill-usage; forced flight to the mountains; price put on his head ..	25,532	95	
Claude A. Innes	Contributions to both political parties; forced flight; losses consequent upon two months' absence from his business ..	2,634	0	
John Johnstone	Property plundered by soldiers ..	16,792	0	
Graham, Geaves, and Co. ..	Extra duties	Dolls. c.		
	Illegal duties on cochineal	10,623	74	
	Contributions	2,009	0	
		5,029	22	
		17,661	96	
William Duncan	Contributions	816	87	
Bates, Barton, and Co. ..	Extra duties and contributions	8,199	75	
Watermeyer, Kauffmann, and Co. ..	Extra duties; contributions; and illegal duties on cochineal ..	10,265	87	
Adam Turnbull	Contributions	641	82	
J. J. Schmidt and Co.	Extra duties; contributions; and duties illegally and violently exacted on the road by General Carvajal ..	9,530	25	
Thomas Gillow	Contributions; embargoes of waggons, &c. ..	16,469	96	
Charles B. Lambley	Sack of house by troops; contributions; embargoes, &c. ..	3,241	50	
John Burnand.. ..	Occupation of his factory; robbery and destruction of property ..	32,089	50	
Charles Whitehead	(For Campbell Ryan) export on money not shipped ..	5,684	90	
David Morn	Mules, horses, forage, seized by troops ..	2,480	0	
Daniel Owen	Plundered by troops at Orizaba ..	5,618	50	
John Sumner	Plundered by troops near Mexico ..	368	0	
J. B. Perry and Co.	Plunder of goods by troops, and extra duties ..	854	76	
James Dawson	(Represented by Haghenbeck) extra duties ..	15,509	89	
James Evans	Balance of building contract with Government ..	5,346	0	
Real del Monte employes ..	Contributions	5,025	0	
Alexr. Stevenson	Forced interruption of his carrying business; robbery of goods, forage, &c., by troops ..	7,213	92	
John Miller	Plunder of goods, cattle, &c., by troops ..	2,005	45	
Etling and Co.	Forced loan; embargo; seizure of goods and money ..	35,307	6	
Elliott Turnbull	Plunder of cattle and arms ..	2,723	25	
Grant and Mitchell	Contributions	435	25	
Peter Hale	Supplies to Government (see also Class 4) ..	149,326	55	
Lancaster Jones	Breach of contract; salary and emoluments ..	41,884	0	
James Randall	Plunder by troops (see also Class 4) ..	750	0	
Grandison and Elliott	Damage and plunder by troops ..	4,981	0	
Consular Agent Chabot's list ..	5 British subjects and firms. Tax on capital; seizure of property; forced loans; double duties ..	20,534	4	
Vice-Consul Alexander's list ..	Bote Mining Company, 7 British subjects, and "sundry Cornish workmen." Forced loans and contributions; double duties; extra duties on silver (see also Class 4, W. Newall) ..	63,431	44	
Consular Agent Glass' list ..	6 British subjects and the United Mexican Mining Company. Tax on grinding mills; capital tax; extra duty on silver; property plundered during sack of Guanajuato by troops of General Pueblita; losses at farm of the "Quemada" ..	32,098	2	
Thomas Fuller.. ..	Embargo of mule trappings by General Pueblita; loss of carrying contract in consequence ..	8,000	0	
William Hooper	Property plundered by troops ..	3,000	0	
Thomas Ritchie	Imprisonment, fine, and sentence of banishment, without trial, for giving succour to distressed whalers in Lower California ..	8,000	0	
John A. Fitzmaurice	Embargoes; loss and damage through illegal acts of the authorities—Amapa ..	1,937	20	
Uhde and Blacker	Seizure of bullion by Vidaurri ..	12,000	0	
Charles Collins	Contributions and imprisonment ..	500	0	
Edward Hay	Contributions	175	75	
N. Davidson	Contributions	7,477	85	
Barron, Forbes, and Co. ..	Embargo; rent of houses:— 7 months at 1,665 $\frac{3}{4}$ dollars Value of 2 houses taken possession of by Government, and rent of same during 11 months	Dolls. c. 11,660 25 45,365 00		
		57,025	25	
	Total	649,174	51	

(E. and O. E.)

Mexico, April 4, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

Class 4.—Claims of a doubtful nature.

		Dollars	c.
Watermeyer, Kauffman and Co.	Non-admission of bonds of the Interior Debt in payment of duties	317	50
Alexander Grant	For Monteith, Dunlop, and Co. and Francis F. Wilson, "Consumo Duty claim," probably included in C. Whitehead's claim	21,984	30
Francis Breakenridge	False imprisonment. Doubtful as to amount claimed for indemnity	10,000	0
Joseph O. Forns	Forced loans, wounds, imprisonment	19,104	7
	Salt works in Tamaulipas, breach of contract	160,000	0
George Ainslie	Church property claim	179,104	7
Peter Hale	Claim for indemnity in connection with his "Supplies claim" (see Class 3)	3,684	50
James Randall	Claim for indemnity in connection with his claim for loss by plunder (see Class 3)	100,000	0
William Newall	Claim for indemnity deducted from amount of Mr. Vice-Consul Alexander's list	10,000	0
J. S. Bengough	Difference between sum demanded by Mr. Lettsom, and sum stated in Mr. Bacon's letter to Sir Charles Wyke of the 30th November, 1861 (see Class 3)	100,000	0
W. H. Chynoweth	Denegation of justice, and loss of time	33,130	32
William Moran	Copper bonds	51,336	0
		20,812	0
		530,368	69

(E. and O. E.)

Mexico, April 4, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

Class 5.—Claims for which no amount has been stated.

		Dollars	c.
John Johnstone	House at Tehuantepec sacked by troops. Statement of amount claimed not received, owing to interruption of postal communications		
John Burnand	Compensation for wounds and loss of an arm		
Laquidain Kerferd	Seizure of goods. 500 bales Istle		
Anglo-Mexican Mint Company	Claim for illegal exportation of uncoined bullion under Decree of Vidaurri		
George Selby	Indemnity for ill-usage; imprisonment. (Was taken out to be shot)		
Mrs. Bodmer	Assassination of her husband, Mr. Vice-Consul Bodmer, by Vicario's troops		
Robert Glenny	Captivity and ill-treatment by troops		
Beckett Hampshire	Carried a prisoner from Tasco to Yguala by Vicario's troops, imprisonment, and ill-usage at latter place		
Bennett family	Murder of their father, J. Bennett, by the police at Pachuca		
John I. Innes	Hunted about the mountains of Oaxaca by Cobos' soldiers; price put on his head		
Henry Beale's estate	Murder of Henry M. Beale		

Mexico, April 4, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Mr. Bourdillon to Consul Glennie.

Sir,

Mexico, April 4, 1862.

AS the authorized agent of Mr. Henry Dalton, I beg to lay before you the following particulars of claim:—

In the latter end of the year 1846 the Deposit Stores in the port of San Pedro were plundered by Mexican troops under the command of General José Maria Flores, upon which occasion Mr. Dalton, who had goods deposited in those stores, lost:

							Dollars	c.
13 bales of cotton goods, value	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,885	0
124 arrobas of tallow	..	..	..	..	..	..	186	0
31 hides ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	0
Interest from 1st January, 1847, to 1st January, 1862	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,133	0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,552	70

These facts have been substantiated by evidence taken before the proper authorities, which can be produced at a moment's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BOURDILLON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

Mr. Bourdillon to Consul Glennie.

Sir,

Mexico, April 4, 1862.

AS you informed me yesterday that it was the wish of Her Majesty's Minister to be supplied with the particulars of claim held by the representatives of the late Mr. Ewen Clarke Mackintosh against the Mexican Government, I, as the authorized agent of those parties, hasten to comply with that wish.

It is impossible, upon so short a notice, to enter into a detailed account of the circumstances out of which these claims originated; I have therefore merely given the title of each, with sums claimed for capital and interest, which I trust will be deemed sufficient for all present purposes.

Her Majesty's Representative is doubtless aware that, in the month of May 1857, the Earl of Clarendon instructed Her Majesty's Legation in this city to demand of the Mexican Government some arrangement of these claims, and that Mr. Lettsom, Her Majesty's then Chargé d'Affaires, passed various notes to the Mexican Government upon the subject; and that in the month of March 1858, a Señor Piquero was nominated to investigate and settle the amount due.

The parties interested in these claims, from a desire to save Her Majesty's Legation all unnecessary trouble, have not, up to the present moment, furnished Her Majesty's Consul with any detailed statement thereof, anticipating that Señor Piquero would long ere this have made his report. Such, however, have been the difficulties purposely thrown in his way by the Mexican Government in withholding documents and otherwise, that little or no progress has been made in the liquidation: and although Earl Russell, in a despatch of January 1860 directed Mr. Mathew to require the Mexican Government "to carry out the arrangement entered into for the investigation and settlement of the claim of Messrs. Manning and Mackintosh," still has the same system of delay and procrastination been resorted to.

In the month of April 1858, the late Ewen C. Mackintosh informed the late Mr. Otway that up to that date, the claims presented by him amounted to 16,277,990 dollars. This amount included a sum of 7,953,722 dollars in respect of the "Tamaulipas" claim, which being of French and Belgian origin, I have omitted in the present statement, although the parties I represent will, so far as they are interested in that claim, naturally look to Her Majesty's Government for protection when the same shall be brought under the consideration of the French Legation.

The particulars of claim, therefore, resolve themselves into the following items (see Inclosure 4):—

The total sum claimed by the late Ewen Clarke Mackintosh in March 1858, exclusive of the "Tamaulipas" claim, was 8,324,275 dollars. Interest upon the different capitals will have to be calculated up to the day of payment.

In submitting this statement on behalf of the parties at present interested, I have to assure his Excellency that I shall be prepared to enter into all the necessary proofs at the proper time. These proofs have most of them already been laid before Señor Piquero.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BOURDILLON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

STATEMENT of the Mackintosh Claims, embodied in Mr. Bourdillon's Letter to Consul Glennie of 4th April, 1862.

	Capital.	Interest to March 1858.
	Dollars.	Dollars.
No. 1.—American Indemnity claim, being for a sum improperly levied in the year 1847 as export duty on a sum of 1,825,000 dollars	182,500	87,600
No. 2.—Payments made on account of Forced Loan in 1843.. ..	70,441	54,414
No. 3.—Account owing for clothing supplied to troops	39,932	7,986
No. 4.—Breach of contracts of the 3rd and 6th April, 1846, involving complicated accounts and long correspondence	344,870	248,026
No. 5.—Claims for moneys advanced to the Mexican Government to enable them to carry out conversion of foreign debt	1,756,447	2,107,736
No. 6.—“Consumo Duty” claim	19,824	21,162
No. 7.—For improper exaction of export duties in 1842	13,570	11,735
No. 8.—“Tamaulipas” claim	248,918	144,746
No. 9.—Supplementary claim to the “Conversion Claim”	216,338	248,030
No. 10.—For money advanced to Government to pay off sum due to Convent of the Carmen	500,000	
No. 11.—Tehuantepec claim	2,000,000	
No. 12.—Mina de la Luz claim; denial of justice		
Total	5,392,840	2,931,435

Inclosure 6 in No. 2.

STATEMENT of the Laguna Seca Claim. Liquidations.

No. 4. March 31, 1862.

		Dollars c.
Capital.	Amount on October 15, 1861	238,043 33
	Less paid off by Mexican Government to Anglo-Mexican Mint Company (their capital)	34,163 91
	Remaining Capital, bearing interest at 12 per cent. per annum	203,879 42
		Dollars c.
Interest.	Due on October 15, 1861	31,864 38
	Less paid by Government to Anglo-Mexican Mint Company	4,573 16
		27,291 22
	Interest on 203,879 dollars 42 c., from October 15, 1861, to March 31, 1862,—167 days, at 12 per cent. per annum	11,193 82
		38,485 4
		242,364 46
		Expenses.
Capital on October 15, 1861 :—		Dollars c.
	Due to Consul Glennie	3,830 13
	Due to Graham, Geaves, and Co. (courier)	180 0
	Due to Barron, Forbes, and Co. (lawyer's opinion)	300 0
	Due to Davies and Co. (pack mules)	1,380 0
		5,690 13
Interest due on October 15, 1861	513 36	
On 5,690 dollars 13 c., from October 15, 1861, to March 31, 1862,—167 days, at 12 per cent. per annum	312 96	
		826 32
		6,516 45
	Due to claimants this day	248,880 91

(E. and O. E.)

Mexico, March 31, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

Inclosure 7 in No. 2.

AMENDED SCHEDULE OF BRITISH CLAIMS.

Class 1.—Claims recognized by the Mexican Government.

				Dollars	c.
Innes, Fenochio, and Co..	..	Balance of loan to Government of Oaxaca	.. ..	12,003	0
Barron, Forbes, and Co..	..	Robbery of Guadalajara Conducta by Marquez	.. ..	* 98,330	60
Graham, Geaves, and Co.	..	Ditto ditto ditto	.. ..	1,110	10
Alexander Grant	..	Ditto ditto ditto	.. ..	1,152	43
Nathl. Davidson	..	Ditto ditto ditto	.. ..	585	81
Bates, Barton, and Co.	..	Matamoros fire, and Government orders' claims	.. ..	77,511	62
Charles Whitehead	..	Tampico "Goods claim"	.. ..	14,743	20
Henry Dalton	..	Balance of "Army Supplies" claim	.. ..	87,516	0
George Ainslie	..	Contracts for Plumber's work	.. ..	55,172	60
		Credit against "Caminos y Peages"	.. ..	32,330	44
				87,503	04
United Mexican Mining Company..	..	San Acasio claim to October 31, 1861..	.. ..	61,497	0
Charles Whitehead	..	As agent for claimants for "Consumo duty" illegally exacted in November 1839	.. ..	437,085	43
James Evans	..	Balance of building contract with Government	.. ..	5,346	0
Thos. Worrall..	..	Indemnity for expulsion	.. ..	15,000	0
				890,384	23
Laguna Seca	..	Due to claimants on March 31, 1862	.. ..	232,880	34
Capuchinas robbery	..	.. ..	.. ..	660,000	0
		Total	.. ..	1,792,264	57

* Including 8,966 dollars belonging to Mr. Doyle.

Interest Pending.

(E. & O. E.)

Orizaba, April 17, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

Class 2.—Claims supported by the British Government.

				Dollars	c.
J. J. Schmidt and Co.	..	Avalos Tariff	.. ..	56,872	42
J. S. Bengough	..	Ditto (see also Class 4)	.. ..	11,550	0
Innes, Fenochio and Co..	..	Their silver-bars claim	.. ..	30,948	47
Charles Whitehead	..	Vera Cruz Custom-house fire claim	.. ..	102,999	50
Ditto	..	Forced loan, in 1836	.. ..	555	99
Young, Harrison, and Bevan	..	Mahogany cutting; breach of contract	.. ..	115,000	0
Robert Nixon	..	Arrears; service in Mexican army	.. ..	400	0
Charles Whitehead	..	Indemnity for expulsion	.. ..	12,000	0
John Potts	..	Ditto	.. ..	20,000	0
		Total	.. ..	350,326	38

Interest pending.

(E. and O. E.)

Orizaba, April 17, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

Class 3.—Claims not yet recognized, but apparently based upon just grounds.

				Dollars	c.
Amount of claims of this class, as per list originally sent in	..	..	..	649,174	51
			Dollars.		
Less claim of Uhde, Blacker, and Co., paid by Government	..	..	12,000		
Less claim of James Evans, transferred to Class 1	..	..	5,346		
				17,346	0
Total	..	..	..	631,828	51

RECAPITULATION.

										Dollars	c.
Class 1.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,792,264	57
" 2.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	350,326	38
" 3.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	631,828	51
" 4.—Same as originally sent in	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	530,368	69
" 5.—No amounts mentioned	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	?	
Total .										3,304,788	15
Amount of the "Mackintosh Claims" in March 1858, according to statement furnished by Mr. Bourdillon ..										8,324,275	0
Total amount of British claims reported up to April 4 ..										11,629,063	15
<i>Notice of further Claims reported subsequent to April 4.</i>											
										Dollars	c.
Barron, Forbes, and Co.	..	Bonds of the Interior Debt retired from circu-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88,725	0
Samuel B. Knight	..	lation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70,945	0
Ditto	..	Government orders on Customs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44,435	33
David Morn	..	Government orders on Tobacco Company ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	344	0
Real del Monte employés	..	Plunder by troops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,518	80
										207,968	13
Total amount of British claims reported up to April 17, 1862 (interest pending) ..										11,837,031	28

(E. and O. E.)

Orizaba, April 17, 1862.

(Signed

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

Inclosure 8 in No. 2.

STATEMENT of the Laguna Seca Claim. Liquidations.

Liquidation of 31st March, reformed in consequence of Settlement of Messrs. A. Uhde and Co.'s Claim, communicated to Consul Glennie on 10th April.

No. 4 (reformed). March 31, 1862.										Dollars	c.
Capital.	Amount due on October 15, 1861	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	238,048	33
	Less paid by Mexican Government to Anglo-Mexican Mint Company	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,163	91
	Ditto to A. Uhde and Co. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,459	85
										47,623	76
	Remaining Capital, bearing interest at 12 per cent. per annum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	190,419	57
Interest.	Due on October 15, 1861	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31,864	38
	Less paid by Government to Anglo-Mexican Mint Company	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,573	16
	Ditto to A. Uhde and Co. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,801	72
										6,374	88
										25,489	50
	Interest on 190,419 dollars 57 cents (remaining Capital), from October 15, 1861, to March 31, 1862,—167 days, at 12 per cent. per annum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,454	82
										35,944	32
										226,363	89
<i>Expenses.</i>											
Capital on October 15, 1861 :—										Dollars	c.
Due to Consul Glennie	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,830	13
Graham, Geaves, and Co. (courier)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	180	0
Barron, Forbes, and Co. (lawyers' opinion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	300	0
Davies and Co. (pack mules)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,380	0
										5,690	13
Interest due on October 15, 1861	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	513	36
On 5,690 dollars 13 cents, from October 15 to March 31, 1862, 167 days, at 12 per cent. per annum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	312	96
										825	32
										6,516	45
Due to claimants on March 31, 1862 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	232,880	34

(E. and O. E.)

Orizaba, April 14, 1862.

(Signed)

F. GLENNIE, Consul.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MEXICO.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

LONDON:
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Correspondence relating to the Affairs of Mexico.

No. 1.

Lord J. Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 30, 1861.

A PASSAGE to Vera Cruz having been ordered for you on board the contract packet appointed to leave Southampton on the 2nd of April, you will embark on board that vessel, and on your arrival at Vera Cruz proceed at once to Mexico. You will probably find Mr. Mathew already in diplomatic communication with the Constitutional Government; for Her Majesty's Government can hardly doubt that it will have willingly acceded to the conditions on which the re-establishment of friendly intercourse has been made to depend.

The instructions addressed to Mr. Mathew, both before and since the final triumph of the Liberal party, made the recognition by Great Britain of the Constitutional Government contingent upon the acknowledgment by that Government of the liability of Mexico for the claims of British subjects, who, either in their persons or in their property, for a long series of years, can be proved to have suffered wrong at the hands of successive Governments in Mexico.

If Mr. Mathew should not have obtained any such concession from the Constitutional Government before your arrival, you must use your own discretion as to the time at which you should present your credentials. It is, of course, desirable that the re-establishment of regular diplomatic intercourse with Mexico should not be delayed, but it might happen that the manifestation of any undue eagerness on your part to bring about such a state of things might encourage the Constitutional Government to withhold the preliminary concession which Mr. Mathew was instructed to require.

Her Majesty's Government have all along declared that they had no desire to prejudge the quarrel between the two parties who have been long arrayed against each other in Mexico, or to side with one party against the other. Had the party of General Miramon shown a due regard for international obligations, and for the rights of British subjects, the British Legation would not have been withdrawn from the city of Mexico. That step was forced upon Her Majesty's Government by continual disregard of the rights of British subjects, and of the obligations of international engagements, which rendered it impossible for Her Majesty's Government to continue to hold relations with the constituted authorities. But if the newly established Government should evince a disposition to act on different principles, you will state to it without hesitation that the friendly feelings of Her Majesty's Government for Mexico have undergone no change, notwithstanding the grievous wrongs which British subjects have sustained at the hands of the successive Governments of that Republic; that the policy of the British Government with regard to Mexico is a policy of non-intervention, and that the British Government desire to see Mexico free and independent, and in a position to regulate the civil administration of the country, to maintain internal peace, and to discharge its international duties without the active intervention of any foreign Power whatever. Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that such assurances as these will induce the Mexican Government to rely with confidence on the disinterestedness of any advice or suggestions which you may see occasion to offer to it, though I would caution you against obtruding such advice upon it, and still more against entering into any contest with the Representative of any other Power for exclusive influence over the councils of the Government.

I would, moreover, particularly caution you against taking any part in the political questions which may arise between contending parties in the State. A British Minister can never safely interfere in such matters; but as the Representative of a country possessing liberal institutions, and therefore desiring to see other nations enjoying the same blessing, he will always be looked upon with respect, and will have more real influence

for good in proportion as he keeps aloof from the factions or disputes of rival parties in the State.

Your earliest attention after your arrival in Mexico must be given to the question of British claims. You are aware that it has not been the custom of Her Majesty's Government, although they have always held themselves free to do so, to interfere authoritatively on behalf of those who have chosen to lend their money to foreign Governments, and the Mexican bondholders have not been an exception to this rule. The Constitutional Government, however, while established at Vera Cruz under the presidency of Señor Juárez, concluded with Captain Dunlop, two years ago, an arrangement by which it was stipulated that 25 per cent. of the Customs receipts at Vera Cruz and Tampico should be assigned to the British bondholders, and 16 per cent. to the holders of Convention bonds. That Convention was confirmed and extended by the arrangement lately made by Captain Aldham. The claims of the bondholders, therefore, to the extent provided for in those arrangements, have acquired the character of an international obligation, and you should accordingly insist upon the punctual fulfilment of the obligations thus contracted.

The bondholders, moreover, have sustained a grievous loss by the robbery of a large sum of money belonging to them which had been deposited for security in the house of Her Majesty's Legation, and if Mr. Mathew should not have succeeded before your arrival in making a satisfactory arrangement for the early restitution of the amount thus plundered, you will insist upon such arrangement being immediately entered into with yourself. Her Majesty's Government will not admit as an excuse for hesitation in this respect the plea that the robbery was committed by the late Government. For as regards this, as indeed all other claims, Her Majesty's Government cannot admit that the party who committed the wrong is alone responsible. Great Britain does not recognize any party as constituting the Republic in its dealings with foreign nations, but holds the entire Republic, by whatever party the government of it may from time to time be administered, to be responsible for wrongs done to British subjects by any party or persons at any time administering the powers of government.

Her Majesty's Government do not, indeed, anticipate any determined refusal on the part of the Constitutional Government to afford redress in this particular case; but if you should meet with any such resistance you will apprise the Mexican Government that you are authorized and enjoined at once to call upon Her Majesty's naval forces to support, and, if necessary, to enforce, your demand for reparation. The fact that the scene of the outrage was the residence of the British Mission gives Her Majesty's Government a special right to enforce reparation in this particular case.

The robbery committed by General Degollado, when acting under the orders of the Government established at Vera Cruz, on a conducta of specie on its way to the coast, in which specie British subjects were largely interested, stands next in order as an act of violence for which reparation must be obtained; and I do not doubt that there will be no hesitation in making good the losses sustained by that transaction.

It is unnecessary for me on this occasion to go through the list of claims of British subjects which it will be your duty to press for settlement. Mr. Mathew has been instructed to present a list of such claims to the Ministers of the Republic, and to demand a settlement of them.

You will find on examining this list that the several claims, although differing in degree, are all of a nature to require reparation, and it will be your duty to arrange with the Mexican Government the manner in which such reparation shall be made. Whatever arrangement you may make should be recorded in a Convention. For this purpose Her Majesty has been pleased to grant you a full power under the Great Seal.

The general British claims may probably be classed under two heads: those the validity of which has been recognized, and those the validity of which is still to be ascertained.

As regards the first class, the Convention should be confined to providing for the manner in which the amounts already agreed upon should be paid; for Her Majesty's Government will not allow cases already examined and determined to be re-opened for prospective benefit either of British parties or of the Mexican Government.

As regards the second class the Convention should provide for examining the claims, and for the liquidation of such as may be pronounced valid, either in whole or in part, on the same principle and in the same manner as may be stipulated in regard to the first class. Whether the examination of such claims shall be made by a Mixed Commission or not, must be left to your discretion to determine.

As regards the first class of claims they should be severally specified in the Convention, with the sums payable in respect of each; but such enumeration will of course not be

practicable as regards the second class, which must remain open for the insertion of any claims brought forward before a specific day.

As regards the time at which either class of the claims shall be paid, Her Majesty's Government are aware that some degree of indulgence may be necessary. The troubles which have for many years past distracted the Republic have, as a natural result, impoverished the country, and made it difficult for the Constitutional Government to raise at once funds sufficient to provide for the immediate wants of the Civil administration, and for the liabilities of the country towards foreign creditors and claimants. But you must be careful not to allow any temporary forbearance which you may show in pressing for the liquidation of British claims to be construed into indifference. So far from that, you will lose no opportunity of pointing out the necessity of taking measures for developing the resources of the country, on the ground that the result of such development will be to supply the Treasury not only with the means of meeting the expenses of the Civil Government, but also with those for satisfying all international claims.

An opinion has got abroad that the Constitutional Government will probably adopt some measure in regard to ecclesiastical property which will place at its disposal a large sum of money.

It is not the part of Her Majesty's Government to say whether this act should be sanctioned or not, but if by any measures of the Mexican Government, which they consider right and expedient, the public Treasury should be immediately or prospectively replenished, Her Majesty's Government may fairly urge that British claimants should have the benefit of such a state of things, and obtain an earlier settlement of their outstanding claims.

The only question affecting the internal polity of Mexico, in regard to which Her Majesty's Government would feel warranted in offering advice unsolicited, is that of freedom for religious worship. Putting aside all considerations of a moral character, which are so strongly in favour of a general liberty of conscience, it is impossible to doubt that Mexico would find great political advantage in throwing down the barrier which now prevents Christians of different sects from settling in the country, and in thereby encouraging the immigration from other countries of persons whose activity and skill would contribute to improve the resources of the country.

I inclose a despatch on this subject which I addressed to Lord Cowley in July last.

You are so well acquainted with the peculiarities of the Spanish character that it is needless for me to dilate on the best means of dealing with the people with whom you may be brought into contact. They are to be influenced by moderate language and considerate demeanour, but they resist and defy attempts to intimidate or coerce.

But it may be that with all your tact and forbearance you will fail to obtain a hearing for well-founded representations on behalf of British subjects; and in such cases you may, by referring quietly to the presence of Her Majesty's ships of war on the coasts of Mexico, leave the Mexican Government to infer that those ships are available for your support if your just demands should be rejected, or if the engagements entered into with you should be disregarded.

As regards the question of Article X of the Convention of 1826, you will find that the construction of that Article has been a fruitful source of discussion between the two Governments, more especially during the rule of General Miramon, when forced loans, under one denomination or another, but more usually, of late, under that of a tax on capital, were continually attempted to be levied on Her Majesty's subjects. You will judge how far any overture on your part for clearing up doubts in regard to this Article, and for securing for British subjects exemption from all extraordinary contributions, under whatever denomination they may be levied, would meet with a favourable reception on the part of the Mexican Government, and if you see a probability of such being the case, you will frame and refer home for consideration the draft of an Additional Article to the Convention of 1826, to which the Mexican Government would be likely to agree.

If any differences should arise between the Mexican Government and foreign Powers, you will not hesitate to employ such influence as you may possess for preventing those differences from leading to an open rupture. But in taking such a course you must be careful not to assume for yourself, or for your Government, any responsibility, and you must avoid any uncalled-for assumption of mediation.

With the Representatives of foreign States accredited to the Republic you will endeavour to live in harmony. You will always bear in mind that neither in Mexico nor in any part of the world do Her Majesty's Government seek any exclusive political influence, nor any commercial advantages which they are not ready to share with all the nations of

the earth. The only object at which they aim is to secure for this country its proper place in the family of nations, and their only desire is to employ any influence which Great Britain may possess, for the promotion of general peace and the development of commercial industry.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Lord J. Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 17, 1860.

I HAVE to state to you that Her Majesty's Government do not at all pretend to impose religious toleration as a basis in Mexico.

But it appears to Her Majesty's Government that to restrict a quiet and obedient subject of the State from worshipping God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to his Creator, whether alone or in communion with others, is a barbarous abuse of power. All that the Civil Magistrate can ask is obedience in civil matters, and the right of religious freedom is so natural and so obvious that it is probable Mexico never will be tranquil so long as men are punished for entertaining a belief different from that of the Government. When, therefore, there is a question of renewing our offer of mediation, Her Majesty's Government will express in a separate despatch their conviction that a tyranny over men's consciences ought to be abandoned by the Government of Mexico.

No. 2.

Lord J. Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 17, 1861.

I HAVE received from Mr. Mathew and from Her Majesty's Consul in Mexico an account of the barbarous murder of Mr. Edward Bodmer, the British Vice-Consul at Tasco, whilst endeavouring to save the life of a Mexican citizen, who was assaulted by some soldiers belonging to a section of General Vicario's army. I have now to instruct you to urge the Mexican Government to spare no efforts to bring the perpetrators of this atrocious outrage to justice, and you will at the same time demand ample reparation for the widow and family of Mr. Bodmer.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

No. 3.

Mr. Mathew to Lord J. Russell.—(Received May 10.)

My Lord,

Mexico, March 26, 1861.

I HAVE received a note, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, from Señor Zarco, expressing the desire of the Mexican Government to secure to Her Majesty's subjects in Mexico the rights of worship according to their conscience, by an Additional, or, more correctly I believe, by a Separate Article to the International Treaty.

A similar communication has, I understand, been addressed to the Ministers of the United States and Prussia, who inform me that they entertain no doubt that the proposal will be gladly accepted by their respective Governments.

From the class of persons who are likely to be attracted to this country, in mining and other pursuits, by the prolongation of peace, I believe that to no nation will this privilege be more important than to Her Majesty's subjects, and I venture to assure myself that your Lordship will receive with much satisfaction the proposal of the Mexican Government for ensuring this right under the guarantee of Treaties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Señor Zarco to Mr. Mathew.

(Translation.)

Mexico, March 25, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to address Mr. Mathew by special command of his Excellency the President, and to inform him that the Constitutional Government of Mexico is desirous to afford foreigners full protection and security with proper guarantees, and that consequently it is ready to add an Additional Article to the Treaty already existing between Great Britain and Mexico, whereby it shall be stipulated that foreigners may carry out freely, publicly, and under the protection of the law, their several forms of religion, and worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

The preliminary steps in this matter can be entered upon in this capital, should Mr. Mathew be provided with the powers necessary for such transactions; otherwise at the Court of St. James, so soon as the Representative of Mexico shall have presented his credentials.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO ZARCO.

No. 4.

Mr. Mathew to Lord J. Russell.—(Received May 10.)

My Lord,

Mexico, April 5, 1861.

IN a recent and prolonged conversation with Señor Zarco, Minister for Foreign Affairs, relative to British claims, that gentleman earnestly assured me of the desire entertained by his Government to meet my just demands on behalf of Her Majesty's subjects in every manner that the deplorable financial condition of Mexico would admit; and further expressed the readiness of the Mexican Government to do whatever your Lordship might deem proper for preventing a recurrence of the exactions lately suffered by British subjects from misinterpretation or deficiencies in the International Treaty, from which many of the existing reclamations have arisen.

I thought it therefore desirable to address him a brief note on these subjects, in order to be enabled to submit to your Lordship some definite proposals and views.

The unsettled condition and future prospects of Mexico, and the experience of the last three years render it, I feel convinced, of obvious importance that all articles of disputed interpretation in the Treaty should be clearly defined, and that such additions should be made to it as your Lordship may think conducive to the security of Her Majesty's subjects, and to the advantage of British interests.

I have much pleasure in being able to lay before your Lordship, by the inclosed translation of Señor Zarco's reply, the official declaration of the desire of the Mexican Government to meet these objects.

This Government, as your Lordship will observe, propose to refer all British reclamations, not yet recognized by it, to the examination and final decision of a Mixed Commission, and to assign for the gradual discharge of all English claims thus or previously admitted, a stated portion of their revenues.

It is distinctly understood that this proposal, which I have now to submit to your Lordship's consideration, has no reference to the special agreement already entered into by the Mexican Government for the repayment of the British money seized in the "conductas" at Lagos and Tampico, nor to the negotiation in progress between the Mexican Government and the Agent of the bondholders for the restoration of the money plundered at this Legation.

Señor Zarco proceeds to state the willingness of his Government to define or extend, as your Lordship may think fit, in the usual manner the privileges to be mutually enjoyed by British and Mexican subjects respectively, and makes in the name of the Mexican Government the declaration, that they stipulate from the present moment for the extension of the right of exemption from forced loans, in the Xth Article, to exemption from extraordinary contributions, from which Her Majesty's subjects have so severely suffered.

He observes that he has proposed by a separate note (the subject matter of my despatch of the 26th of March), to secure to Her Majesty's subjects, by a Separate Article, the free right of public worship, and he transmits a copy of the now existing law for that object, which I have the honour to inclose.

I think your Lordship will not disapprove of my having thus taken the earliest

opportunity of bringing these matters to issue. I am not aware of any other points in the International Treaty calling for notice, except that of intestate estates, but I may at the same time bring to your consideration the questions affected by the late proposed and, I imagine, discarded Treaty with the United States, of any exclusive rights of transit for merchandise, or of Isthmus jurisdiction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Mr. Mathew to Señor Zarco.

Mexico, March 22, 1861.

THE Undersigned refers with much pleasure to his recent conversation with his Excellency Señor Don Francisco Zarco, respecting some proposed mode of liquidation, by mutual arrangement, of the heavy claims of British subjects against Mexico, and he would be glad to be enabled to transmit for the consideration of his Government the views entertained by his Excellency and the Mexican Cabinet.

The consideration of this subject naturally led to remarks upon certain alleged doubts with regard to the wording of the present international Treaty between Great Britain and Mexico, upon infractions of which many of the British claims are founded, which his Excellency Señor Zarco informed him had attracted the serious consideration of his Government.

The Undersigned would have great satisfaction at the same time, therefore, in laying before his Government any general suggestions which his Excellency Señor Zarco may think fit to communicate to him, with the view of securing beyond the possibility of doubt or question, in Great Britain and in Mexico, to the natives of each country the rights and privileges to which the two Governments have declared them entitled in civil and religious matters.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) GEORGE B. MATHEW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Señor Zarco to Mr. Mathew.

(Translation.)

National Palace, Mexico, March 27, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour of acknowledging the receipt of the note which Mr. Mathew, &c., was pleased to address him, under date of the 22nd instant, in which, referring to a recent conversation he had with the Undersigned respecting British claims, he expresses a desire to know what are the intentions of the Mexican Government as to their liquidation and settlement.

The Undersigned, who has already expressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires how sincere is the wish of the Mexican Government to offer every kind of security for faithfully complying with the Treaties, and to attend to all claims founded in justice, has also laid before him the great difficulties which at this moment impede an immediate and satisfactory settlement; difficulties which are the natural consequences of a three years' civil war, and by which the public Treasury has been drained, and the burthens weighing upon the revenue have been greatly increased.

The Undersigned has been gratified by perceiving that Her Britannic Majesty's worthy Representative has justly estimated the goodwill of the Mexican Government, and is not unconscious of the obstacles which are but superficially noticed in this note.

The Undersigned has requested from the Finance Department a circumstantial statement of the assignments of the duties of the maritime Custom-houses granted for the payment of foreign claims, and as soon as this statement is made out he will have the honour of submitting it to Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, in order that he may be pleased to take it into his consideration.

In the meantime, the Undersigned can inform his Excellency that the desire of the Mexican Government is to examine all British claims in order to ascertain their exact amount, to submit all that may be pending and not yet recognized (should Her Britannic Majesty's Government concur) to the scrutiny and decision, without appeal, of a Mixed Commission, whose organisation would be the subject of arrangement between the two Governments, and to assign for the payment of all claims thus admitted all that part of the national revenues that can be disposed of, reserving only what is absolutely necessary

for covering the estimated expenditure, into which every economy compatible with the existence of Government has been already commenced to be introduced.

The Undersigned would truly wish to be able to make more flattering promises to Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, but he prefers (and thinks it more consonant with rectitude) to use only the sincere language of truth, and to state that only which is within the limits of possibility in the present circumstances of the country.

The Government of the Undersigned recollect with satisfaction that Mr. Mathew, on the day of his official reception, offered them the full moral support of Great Britain, and they confidently hope from the sentiments of justice and benevolence which animate the Government of Her Britannic Majesty that they will see in this statement a proof of good faith, and of the sincere desire of the Mexican Government to meet their just and well-founded reclamations.

The Undersigned takes leave to observe that when peace has been consolidated in the Republic, and the Government has been enabled to direct their attention to the improvement of all the branches of the public administration, the increase of their revenues will be gradual and progressive, and the product, therefore, of whatever assignments may have been made of these revenues will be greater for the payment of British claims.

The Undersigned likewise observes, that a general arrangement and the formation of a common fund would have the advantage of offering a greater degree of equity to British claimants; for they would thus avoid preferences in favour of some and to the detriment of others, occurrences which might take place independently of the desire of the Mexican Government, and even of the British Legation, who occasionally recommend and give ear to certain cases without being able to do the same for all the cases of like nature.

As Mr. Mathew, in the note to which the Undersigned has the honour of replying, has been pleased to suggest the propriety of laying down the clear meaning of some of the Articles of the existing Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Mexico, the infraction of which has caused many of the reclamations, the Government of the Undersigned perceives no sort of inconvenience in making, with that of Great Britain, such Declarations as may seem best suited to prevent for the future all species of doubt or questions of interpretation, so that the natives of each country may enjoy when resident in the other, clear and defined rights.

Although, in order to arrive at this result, it may be needful to open negotiations, and to give the proper instructions to Plenipotentiaries, the Government of the Undersigned declare that from the present moment they agree, with respect to the stipulations in the Xth Article of the Treaty of December 26, 1826, to extend the exemption from forced loans to extraordinary contributions, limiting their obligation of paying to such contributions as may be legally established in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic, and to those which the States may impose in conformity with their particular laws and their municipal regulations.

The Government of Mexico are prepared, with regard to any explanation or modification of any other Articles of the Treaty, to take into consideration any proposals or suggestions made on the part of Great Britain; and in considering such they will entertain no other view than that of maintaining and of strengthening more and more the friendly relations that happily exist between the two countries, reserving to themselves the right of proposing on their part the modifications which, on a careful examination, they may deem conducive to the maintenance of these relations and to the legitimate interests of the Republic.

With respect to the question of granting to the natives of both countries reciprocally the right of religious liberty, the Undersigned has already made known to Mr. Mathew in his note of the 25th instant, that the Government of Mexico is willing to secure, by an Additional Article to the Treaty, the necessary stipulation for ensuring to British subjects the free exercise of their worship, and the right of adoring God according to their inspirations of their conscience.

Foreign residents in Mexico enjoy this right since the triumph of the legitimate Government, who have proclaimed, defended, and sustained, the great principle of religious liberty; and such is the desire of the Government to see it carried out fully into practice, that they have not awaited in proclaiming it for the suggestion of friendly Powers, and they will concede the liberty of worship to all mankind, even though they should know that on this point due reciprocity had been denied to Mexican citizens in any other country of the world.

In order that Mr. Mathew may form an exact idea of the principles which on this point serve as a guide to the Government of the Republic, and which he may communicate to that of Her Britannic Majesty, the Undersigned has the honour to inclose a copy of

the Decree of the 4th of December last, which regulates the liberty of worship in this country, and whose provisions the Undersigned hopes may be the basis accepted by the Government of Great Britain for the stipulation proposed by the Undersigned in his note of the 25th instant.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO ZARCO.

No. 5.

Mr. Mathew to Lord J. Russell—(Received May 28.)

My Lord,

Mexico, April 19, 1861.

A PUBLIC and religious ceremony having been announced to take place at Tacubaya in commemoration of the murders of prisoners and other persons committed there in the month of April 1859, by order of Generals Miramon and Marquez, I deemed it a fitting moment to call the consideration of the Mexican Government to the claim of the widow and family of the unfortunate Dr. Duval.

Señor Zarco, in a note of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, informed me that the President was willing to assign nationalized property of the value of 25,000 dollars for their benefit. Conscious of the all but impossibility under which the Government laboured of finding other means, I conceived it important to the interest of Dr. Duval's family to place the offer of Señor Zarco in the hands of a respectable person, Mr. Knight, as their representative to carry it into effect; but at the same time I deemed it right to guard myself in my reply, of which a copy is herewith transmitted, against the possible presumption of having admitted the disclaimer contained in Señor Zarco's note of pecuniary responsibility on the part of the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE B. MATHEW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Señor Zarco to Mr. Mathew.

(Translation.)

Mexico, April 12, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., in reply to Mr. Mathew's note respecting certain indemnity for the family of Dr. Duval, has the honour to inform him that, notwithstanding their desire to meet his wishes in the present instance, the Mexican Government neither are nor can be held responsible, whether they be judged by international law, the laws of Mexico itself, or by general principles of justice, for the crimes of certain people calling themselves a Government, and lately in possession of the capital, much less when such crimes come under the category of murders, as in the case of the unfortunate Dr. Duval. Consequently, the Undersigned cannot but feel that Mr. Mathew will perceive how impossible it would be for the present Government, with the principles they hold, to impose upon the country the payment of such indemnities as could not fail to give rise to a responsibility quite inadmissible.

Nevertheless, the Constitutional Government, from feelings of humanity and justice, would not be indisposed to grant some kind of voluntary indemnity in such instances as the present one, and, as regards the family of Dr. Duval, would be willing to set aside house-property to the amount of 25,000 dollars, the sum specified by Mr. Mathew, an arrangement which could be carried out either in actual houses or in convent-property, the latter having been secularized.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO ZARCO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Mr. Mathew to Señor Zarco.

Mexico, April 18, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., begs to acknowledge the notes addressed to him by his Excellency Señor Don Francisco Zarco, &c., under dates of the 12th, 13th, 15th, and 16th instant.

He feels most fully assured of the sentiments of reprobation with which the Government of whom his Excellency is a justly distinguished member must regard any acts of

outrage and exaction from which Her Majesty's subjects in Mexico may have suffered, and for which they naturally look to that country for the compensation due to them; still less can he doubt the indignation with which they must view such atrocious and cowardly acts of assassination as that of which the unfortunate Dr. Duval was a victim—deeds, whose advisers and perpetrators will yet, he trusts, meet condign punishment.

The Undersigned has received with sincere gratification the notification that his Excellency the President has determined to assign immediately property of the value of 25,000 dollars for the benefit of Dr. Duval's widow and family, and has requested Mr. Knight, as their agent and friend in this capital, to wait upon his Excellency Señor Zarco, and to concert with him all necessary steps for carrying his Excellency's benevolent commands into immediate effect.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE B. MATHEW.

No. 6.

Lord J. Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 30, 1861.

HER Majesty's Government approve Mr. Mathew's proceedings as reported in his despatch of the 19th ultimo, with reference to the proposed assignment of national property of the value of 25,000 dollars to the widow of the late Dr. Duval.

I am, &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

No. 7.

Mr. Mathew to Lord J. Russell.—(Received June 27.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, May 12, 1861.

THERE has been but little change in the affairs of Mexico for the last two months. Señor Prieto was succeeded in the Ministry of Finance by Señor Mata, whose previous nomination as Minister to England I had the honour of notifying to your Lordship, and who has only agreed to fill the office until the meeting of Congress. The death of Señor Lerdo de Tejada, the ablest, if not the only financier in the Republic, has been severely felt at the present crisis.

It seems doubtful whether Señor Mata will proceed to London; the name of Señor Gomez Farias has been mentioned to me by Señor Zarco, in the event of a new appointment.

Señor Fuente, a lawyer of some note, left Mexico by the last packet on a mission to Paris, and probably to Spain; his departure having been long delayed by the difficulty of procuring even the small sum of money necessary for his journey and support.

To this complete deficiency of resources must be attributed the continued existence and increase, in various parts of the country, of guerilla bodies under the Spaniards Cobos and Vicario, and under the infamous Marquez, who pursues still his course of murder and rapine.

Two petty attempts to create disturbances in this capital were discovered and put down in time.

In other respects public tranquillity has not been disturbed, and however faulty and weak the present Government may be, they who witnessed the murders, the acts of atrocity and of plunder, almost of daily occurrence, under the Government of General Miramon and his counsellors, Señor Diaz and General Marquez, cannot but appreciate the existence of law and justice.

Foreigners, especially, who suffered so heavily under that arbitrary rule, and by the hatred and intolerance towards them which is a dogma of the Church party in Mexico, cannot but make a broad distinction between the past and the present.

President Juarez, though deficient in the energy necessary for the present crisis, is an upright and well-intentioned man, excellent in all the private relations of life; but the mere fact of his being an Indian exposes him to the hostility and sneers of the dregs of Spanish society, and of those of mixed blood, who ludicrously arrogate to themselves the higher social position in Mexico.

I have already made known to your Lordship my opinion of the objectionable nature

of the Federal Constitution now in force: and I have not concealed my fear for the future peace of Mexico, from the utter want of patriotism among the higher classes, and from the demoralisation and restlessness produced among all by the prolonged state of civil warfare. A desire for change is already stated to exist in certain quarters, and the idea of the selection of a Military Dictator has been put forward; but it is scarcely needful to observe that such a step would be no palliation of the present wants, and no preventive of the future dangers of the country.

General St. Anna was the ablest man of that class Mexico has produced, and the temporary good effect of his energetic character is unquestionable; but that due appreciation of equal justice, of social rights, and of peaceful prosperity, by which alone nationality can be maintained, cannot be created by the strong hand of arbitrary power.

The hope of Mexico rests upon the maintenance of peace. A wise basis of civil and of religious liberty has been laid down, and peace only is needed for the development of constitutional principles, and for the gradual enlightenment of the people.

But seeing, as I do, so many native and foreign elements at work to disturb the existing state of things, I cannot but entertain a conviction that unless the present Government or principles of government are in some way avowedly upheld by England or the United States—by a protecting alliance, or by the declaration that no revolutionary movements would be permitted in any of the seaports on either ocean—further deplorable convulsions will afflict this unfortunate country, to the heavy injury of British interests and commerce, and to the disgrace of humanity.

I do not believe it possible that the Church party, or that the former rule of intolerance and of gross superstition, can ever be restored to power: so far, at least, has been secured by the result of the last civil war—the first contest for principles, it may be remarked, in this Republic. But the result of the intrigues of various parties with different views and hopes, and the difficulties and embarrassments purposely brought to bear upon a weak and bankrupt Government, may cause an early dismemberment of the Republic, and its division into many petty States.

The most imminent peril, however, to Mexico, and one which will equally press on any future as on the present Government, is the deplorable state of its finances. On the one hand, the Supreme Government have no power to raise taxes, save with the consent of the States (and the country, though possessed of great internal wealth, is, for the present year or more, utterly ruined and exhausted by the late war); and on the other, the resources now receivable by the Government are avowedly unequal to more than half the amount of the expenditure actually requisite.

The chief revenues arise from the import duties, and not only are these gradually but surely diminishing, from the smuggling consequent on the high duties so unwisely imposed on cottons and woollens, and other goods of general consumption, but at this moment, in Vera Cruz, the chief port of the Republic, no less than 77 per cent. are claimed by foreign creditors. Of this amount—

27 per cent. are assigned to the London bondholders.

24 per cent. to the "British Convention," which numbers very few English holders.

10 per cent. extra to replace arrears.

10 per cent. to replace the money at the Mint of Guanajuato.

8 per cent. for the French Convention.

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The Mexican Government has been accused, and not without some reason, of having frittered away the Church property recently nationalized; but it must be remembered that, while forced contributions, plunder, and immense supplies from the Church and its supporters, have enabled Generals Zuloaga and Miramon to sustain the civil war for three years, the Constitutional Government abstained from such acts, and have the sole robbery of the conducta at Lagos, towards the close of the war, to answer for. Their resources during this lengthened period were drawn from advances by individuals, on bonds for far larger sums, payable at the close of the war, and from the actual sale of a great part of this property at 25, 20, and even 15 per cent. of its supposed value.

The advantageous disposal of the remainder was most detrimentally affected by the circulation of reports calculated to prevent the restoration of confidence, and the consequent investment of money in the purchase of nationalized property; and the Government have consequently been obliged by their necessities, after trying in vain every better mode of sale, to dispose of the property on "pagarés" (or promissory notes), to be paid off by instalments extending over several years.

These "pagarés," again, they are compelled to sell by auction, at a heavy discount,

to provide for the daily subsistence of the troops, and the maintenance of the Government.

From the foregoing details your Lordship will at once understand the precarious condition of Mexico, and that, without some foreign interposition, the dismemberment of the Republic and a national bankruptcy appear all but inevitable.

The session of the Mexican Congress, after some preliminary time spent in verifying the elections, was opened on the 10th; and I have the honour to inclose copies of the speeches of President Juarez, and of the President of the Congress, on that occasion.

I am sorry to say that I entertain but little hope of much practical advantage from their deliberations; indeed, I know not that much is in their power, especially with regard to the most pressing danger, the financial position of Mexico.

The bondholders might, perhaps, save their capital by submitting to a temporary suspension of interest; and the establishment of a more equitable Tariff, which the Government are pledged to me to urge upon the Congress, may lay down a better future basis of revenue.

But Mexico should, whatever her distress, at least commence at home; and the holders of the immense internal debt should be the first to suffer for the ruin their own folly has caused or abetted. I much fear that the Republic has not produced men of sufficient energy and honour to adopt this course, unsustained by some foreign interposition.

The effort will always be made to make the foreigner the chief sufferer from the undoubtedly bankrupt state of the country.

One of the first acts of the Congress will be to verify the election of the President, which has recently taken place throughout the country: unless one of the candidates has a majority of all the votes cast, the Congress selects; and it is thought very possibly that by this course Señor Juarez, though highest on the list of candidates, may be defeated, and that General Ortega may be named.

Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Sir Charles L. Wyke, and Mr. Johnston, arrived safely in this capital on the 9th instant.

No. 8.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received June 27.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, May 27, 1861.

IN a long conversation I had with Señor Guzman I dwelt on the astonishment that would naturally be felt by Her Majesty's Government when informed that no steps had yet been taken for the payment of the 660,000 dollars, which we must insist on being refunded to the parties from whom it had been stolen. I added that the honour of the Mexican Government was directly concerned in this matter, and therefore fully expected to hear from him some explanation.

Don Leon Guzman was profuse in his professions of being willing to do all that could in justice be required of him, but whenever I attempted to get him out of generalities, he avoided the difficulty by stating that until I was formally installed as Her Majesty's Minister here, he could not officially treat the question with me, but again expressed his willingness to render every satisfaction when the proper time for so doing should arrive. As soon after the departure of the mail as possible I shall put his sincerity to the test.

The term of delay granted for the repayment of the money stolen from the "conducta" by General Degollado expires on the 11th of next month, and I have every reason to believe that they are not prepared to meet the demand that will then be made upon them.

No. 9.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received June 27.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, May 27, 1861.

IT will be very difficult, if not impossible, to give your Lordship a correct idea of the present state of affairs in this unfortunate country, so utterly incomprehensible is the conduct of the Government which at present presides over its destinies.

Animated by a blind hatred towards the Church Party, the present Government has

only thought of destroying and dissipating the immense property formerly belonging to the clergy, without, however, at the same time taking advantage of the wealth thus placed at their disposal to liquidate the many obligations which at present weigh them down and cripple their resources.

The Church property has generally been supposed to be worth between 60,000,000 and 80,000,000 Spanish dollars, the whole of which appears to have been frittered away without the Government having anything to show for it. A considerable amount has, doubtless, been spent in repaying advances at exorbitant interest, made to the Liberal Party when they were fighting their way to power; but still enough ought to have remained after satisfying their creditors to have left them very well off, and in a better position as to their pecuniary resources than that held by any other Government.

Since their Declaration of Independence, according to a Decree issued by them some time ago, anybody denouncing Church property has the right to purchase it on the following terms,—60 per cent. of the value of such houses or lands are to be paid in bonds of the internal debt (which bonds are in reality only worth 6 per cent.), and the remaining 40 per cent. in “pagarés” or promises to pay hard cash, at sixty, and even eighty months’ sight. These “pagarés,” of course, were subsequently discounted at an enormous sacrifice, as the Government was pressed for money, and willing to pay any nominal value to obtain it without delay. In this way 27,000,000 dollars’ worth of Church property has been squandered in this city alone, and the Government, now without a sixpence, is endeavouring to raise a loan of 1,000,000 dollars to pay their current expenses.

The Church Party, although beaten, are not yet subdued, and several of their Chiefs are within six leagues of the capital, at the head of forces varying from 4,000 to 6,000 men. The notorious Marquez is one of these, and he has lately defeated several bodies of Government troops sent against him.

The religious feelings of a fanatic population have been shocked by the destruction of churches and convents all over the country, and the disbanded monks and friars wandering about amongst the people fan the flame of discontent, which is kept alive by the women, who, as a body, are all in favour of the Church.

Those well acquainted with the country watch this movement with anxiety, and say that unless promptly checked, it will lead to the downfall of the present Government, and renew again all the horrors of a civil war.

In the meantime Congress, instead of enabling the Government to put down the frightful disorder which reigns throughout the length and breadth of the land, is occupied in disputing about vain theories of so-called government on ultra-liberal principles, whilst the respectable part of the population is delivered up defenceless to the attacks of robbers and assassins, who swarm on the highroads and in the streets of the capital. The Constitutional Government is unable to maintain its authority in the various States of the Federation, which are becoming *de facto* perfectly independent, so that the same causes which, under similar circumstances, broke up the Confederation of Central America into five separate Republics are now at work here, and will probably produce a like result.

This state of things renders one all but powerless to obtain redress from a Government which is solely occupied in maintaining its existence from day to day, and therefore unwilling to attend to other people’s misfortunes before their own. The only hope of improvement I can see is to be found in the small moderate party, who may step in perhaps before all is lost, to save their country from impending ruin. Patriotism, in the common acceptation of the term, appears to be unknown, and no one man of any note is to be found in the ranks of either party. Contending factions struggle for the possession of power only to gratify either their cupidity or their revenge, and in the meantime the country sinks lower and lower, whilst its population becomes brutalized and degraded to an extent frightful to contemplate.

Such is the actual state of affairs in Mexico, and your Lordship will perceive therefore that there is little chance of justice or redress from such people, except by the employment of force to exact that which both persuasion and menaces have hitherto failed to obtain.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received July 29.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, June 24, 1861.

IN my despatch of the 27th ultimo I stated that I should take an early opportunity of testing the sincerity of Don Leon Guzman, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, with reference to his assertion to me that the Mexican Government were most anxious to atone, by any means in their power, for the outrage committed at the British Legation in November last.

My interview with him took place on Saturday the 1st instant. He said that legal measures had been instituted against the persons who had stolen the 660,000 dollars on that occasion, and that if they were condemned by the Courts, their property would be confiscated, and the proceeds thereof employed towards paying off that sum.

This I told him I had nothing whatever to do with, having merely to insist on the repayment of the money stolen, without in any way being concerned in the means by which it was to be procured.

I pointed out to Señor Guzman that the speedy repayment of the sum above mentioned was essential, not only for the honour and credit of the Mexican Government, but also for the maintenance of friendly relations between the two countries.

Don Leon then assured me that before the departure of the next mail he should be able to furnish me with such explanations relative to this matter as would prove satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

With regard to the money robbed from the "Laguna Seca" conducta, he informed me that it should be paid at the end of the four months named as the term for liquidating this claim.

On the Monday following, that is to say the 3rd of June, appeared in most of the newspapers a Decree issued by the President, under the authority of the Congress, whereby all payments to the creditors of the National Treasury were suspended for the space of one year, with the exception of the claim commonly known as that of the "Laguna Seca" and of the Diplomatic Conventions.

As the claim arising out of the Legation robbery was not specified in the list of exceptions to non-payment, I addressed a note to Señor Guzman on the subject, copy of which, together with a translation of his reply, I have the honour to inclose.

Not deeming the latter satisfactory, I again wrote to him on the 7th instant, in order to maintain the position I had taken, as well also as to prove to him that I was perfectly justified in demanding an explanation as to the omission of all mention of the Legation robbery claim in the Decree of the 29th ultimo, which I herewith inclose for your Lordship's information. Copy of this note I likewise transmit, together with translation of his reply, in which he endeavours to establish by inference the principle that the actual perpetrators of the Legation outrage are alone responsible for the wrong done on that occasion.

Seeing the necessity of at once checking this attempt to shift the responsibility from off the shoulders of the Mexican Government, I again addressed Señor Guzman on the 14th instant, which note had the effect of producing a reply, showing considerable temper, and in which it is plainly asserted that they will do nothing that they are not strictly bound to perform by the agreement made with Mr. Mathew at the time of his recognition of the Juarez Government.

The tone of this communication was, taking into consideration the general style of their official correspondence, anything but courteous, and it therefore called forth a reply from me couched in even stronger terms than my note of the 14th instant. I have the honour to inclose copy of this despatch, which has remained unanswered up to the present moment, owing, I suppose, to the resignation of the Guzman Administration.

In order to avoid all confusion, I will treat of the "Laguna Seca" claim in a separate despatch, inclosing therein the correspondence which has taken place with reference to it between the Mexican Government and Her Majesty's Legation.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Guzman.

Sir,

Mexico, June 3, 1861.

IN the second Article of a Decree bearing the President's signature, and dated the 29th ultimo, but which was only brought to my notice this morning, I perceive that the payment of all claims against the National Treasury, except those guaranteed by Diplomatic Conventions, and the one commonly known as that of the "Laguna Seca," is to be suspended for the period of twelve calendar months.

Without entering into the grave questions that may arise out of the practical operation of this Decree, I will simply call your attention on the present occasion to the omission of all mention in it of the claim caused by robbery from Her Majesty's Legation of the sum of 660,000 dollars belonging to the English bondholders.

The settlement of this claim, which so nearly affects the honour and credit of the Mexican Government, cannot surely be intended to be postponed until after the expiration of the term mentioned in said Decree for the suspension of payment.

Your Excellency will greatly oblige me by clearing up all doubt on this subject, for the question involved is one of the greatest importance as nearly affecting those good relations between our respective Governments which it is our duty, as well also, I am sure, our mutual desire, to maintain.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Señor Guzman to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Mexico, June 6, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour of replying to the note of his Excellency the British Minister under date of the 3rd instant, in which his Excellency is pleased to ask for an explanation of the omission to include among the exceptions to the Decree of the 29th of May last, upon the subject of a general suspension of Treasury payments, the 660,000 dollars belonging to the London bondholders, and stolen by the rebels from Her Britannic Majesty's Legation.

In doing so, the Undersigned has the honour to inform Sir Charles Wyke that the suspension of payments does not, and could not, include the 660,000 dollars in question, and, consequently, there was no necessity to make any exception in this case.

By the arrangement made in the matter of the 660,000 dollars, the Mexican Government has assigned for their payment the property of the responsible parties, and only in the event of such property proving insufficient for the purpose, did it engage itself to treat of and settle amicably the reimbursement of the whole sum. Inasmuch, then, as the money is not being paid by the National Treasury, the suspension of payments referred to does not, and cannot, affect it.

Were, indeed, the Treasury eventually called upon to make good any deficiency, the suspension of payments could never prove an obstacle in the way of its carrying out such an arrangement.

In offering these explanations, which he doubts not will appear satisfactory to Sir C. L. Wyke, the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) LEON GUZMAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 10.

Decree.

LE citoyen Benito Juarez, Président Intérimaire Constitutionnel des Etats-Uni Mexicains, à tous leurs habitants faisons savoir :

Que le Congrès Souverain de la nation a bien voulu décréter ce qui suit :—

Article 1. L'Exécutif est autorisé à mettre en cours forcé des titres ("escrituras") de capitaux nationaux imposés sur immeubles ruraux et urbains, en quantité suffisante pour lui procurer le 1,000,000 piastres auquel se réfère le Décret du 20 du courant, avec un escompte pouvant s'élever jusqu'au deux pour cent. mensuel.

Art. 2. Sont suspendus, pour une année, les paiements aux créanciers du Trésor National, à l'exception de celui de la conduite de Laguna Seca, et des Conventions Diplomatiques ; pendant ce temps, le Congrès de l'Union rendra les lois de crédit public, de suppression des douanes intérieures et "alcabalas," de réforme de Tarif et d'établissement de la contribution directe.

Art. 3. L'Exécutif présentera une initiative d'arrangement pour la suspension des Conventions Diplomatiques, en rendant compte du résultat au Congrès pour son approbation.

Art. 4. En dehors des exceptions qu'établit l'Article 2, l'Exécutif ne pourra faire d'autres paiements que ceux d'administration.

Donné dans la Salle des Séances du Congrès de l'Union, le 29 Mai, 1861.

(Signé)

JOSE MARIA AGUIRRE, *Député Président.*

GUILLERMO VALLE, *Député Secrétaire.*

E. ROBLES GIL, *Député Secrétaire.*

Pourquoi j'ordonne, &c.

Palais du Gouvernement Fédéral à Mexico, le 29 Mai, 1861.

Au citoyen José Maria Castaños, Ministre des Finances et du Crédit Public.

Inclosure 4 in No. 10.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Guzman.

Sir,

Mexico, June 7, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's communication bearing yesterday's date, in reply to my despatch of the 3rd instant, in which I requested you to inform me why all mention of the Legation robbery had been omitted from that Article of the Decree of the 29th ultimo which specifies the exceptions that are to be made to the suspension of payment of all claims against the National Treasury for the space of twelve calendar months.

In the second paragraph of your above-named despatch, your Excellency informs me that the Decree of the 29th could not affect the case of the Legation robbery, and that consequently there was no necessity to mention the claim arising therefrom in the list of exceptions to the general rule of a suspension of payments ; and yet, in the concluding sentence of the third paragraph, you inform me that if the means adopted for the liquidation of this claim should prove insufficient, that then the National Treasury would make up the deficit.

Seeing that this must eventually be the case, your Excellency will easily understand why I was anxious to obtain the assurance which you have now given me, that the payment shall be made out of the National Treasury, for the means you have hitherto adopted to repay the money stolen have not produced the desired result.

As I had the honour of stating to you in our recent conversation with reference to this matter, the prompt settlement of this claim equally affects the honour of both Governments, an opinion in which you fully concurred, at the same time assuring me that before the departure of the next European mail you would be able to prove to me the honourable intentions of your Government in doing all in their power to satisfy the just demands of that of Her Majesty.

Fully trusting in that assurance, I will no longer dwell upon a subject the importance of which is well known to your Excellency ; indeed, I should not again have alluded to it, were it not for my desire to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding arising with reference to it.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 10.

Señor Guzman to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Mexico, June 12, 1861.

WITH your Excellency's note of the 3rd instant, which the Undersigned had the honour of receiving on the 4th, the question raised by your Excellency about no exception having been made in the Decree of the 29th for the robbery committed by the rebels at the British Legation should have terminated. But, like your Excellency, the Undersigned is desirous of preventing any misunderstanding upon this point, and considers himself, therefore, under the necessity of explaining matters.

Now there is a palpable difference between asserting, as did the Undersigned, that, in the event of the Legation robbery not being covered by the property of the perpetrators thereof, the Mexican Government were under an obligation to treat about and arrange the reimbursement of the moneys taken, and positively affirming that under similar circumstances the deficiency would have to be covered by the National Treasury.

The Undersigned hinted, indeed, at the possibility of such a contingency, but he never did, nor could he, say that it was a certainty; such a statement was out of the question, inasmuch as it is not possible to give a positive assurance about any matter which has to be treated of and settled, before the treatment and settlement shall have taken place.

With regard to the loyal intentions of the Mexican Government, of which the Undersigned has assured your Excellency—your Excellency at the same time being pleased to acknowledge them—the Undersigned can state that stringent orders have been given for expediting the judicial inquiries which have been instituted, so as to permit of the money stolen from the Legation being repaid by whatever property of the responsible parties has been or may be embargoed.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

LEON GUZMAN.

Inclosure 6 in No. 10.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Guzman.

Sir,

Mexico, June 14, 1861.

UNWILLING as I am to prolong a correspondence which I fear will lead to no practical result for some time to come, yet I cannot pass over in silence your Excellency's note of the 12th instant, written in reply to mine of the 7th, without at once protesting against the doctrine therein attempted to be established by inference, to the effect that the actual perpetrators of the Legation outrage are alone responsible, in their persons and property, for the wrong done on the 17th of November last.

Now, according to every principle of international law having reference to cases in any way similar to the one in point, Her Majesty's Government is perfectly justified in holding the State of Mexico (I use the word in its largest sense) responsible for the insult done to their Legation, and the robbery of British property committed on that occasion, without in any way occupying themselves with the mere individuals who acquired so unfortunate a notoriety by a crime which it should have been the first duty of the present Government to punish and atone for.

It was an express stipulation on the part of Her Majesty's Government, before recognizing that of President Juarez, that this obligation should be complied with, and Mr. Mathew, late Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, was so fully convinced of the sincerity of his Excellency's then Cabinet in this matter, that he at once proffered the recognition he had to offer, without waiting to see the accomplishment of a duty which was binding, in honour as well as justice, on the parties who had inherited the advantages as well as the responsibilities of their predecessors.

If Mr. Mathew's confidence has been misplaced, that can in no way affect the rights of Her Majesty's Government in this matter, which, as represented by me, I now again insist on, as well for the principle involved, as for the interests of the parties concerned.

When I had the honour of communicating verbally with your Excellency on this subject, I had hoped that you had clearly understood the view taken of this question by Her Majesty's Government, and the more so as, according to those principles of international law now universally acknowledged, there is only one way of looking at it.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 10.

Señor Guzman to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

National Palace, Mexico, June 15, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to address himself to his Excellency Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, &c., and to inform him, that without insisting upon continuing the correspondence that his Excellency was pleased to commence, and which according to the declaration in his note of the 14th instant he does not desire to prolong, the Undersigned must take notice of the protest that his Excellency makes "against the doctrine which is attempted to be established by inference, to the effect that the actual perpetrators of the Legation outrage are alone responsible in their persons and property for the wrong done on the 17th of November last."

Without entering into a question which is irrelevant, and confining himself to his note of the 12th instant, the Undersigned finds himself compelled to explain matters by observing, that in his said note of the 12th no doctrines were laid down, but facts were recalled; facts consigned in an agreement concluded between the Agent accredited by the English Government and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Government.

The Government of the Undersigned is disposed to treat questions of right on the ground of justice and reason, but will not prejudice them, nor allow them to be prejudiced, by introducing them incidentally and out of their place, or contrary to established forms. Thus then, and without its being understood that the doctrines noted down by his Excellency are accepted or rejected, the Undersigned has the honour to assure him that in the matter of the Legation robbery he will be strictly bound by the agreement entered into by the Representatives of both Governments, without discussing whether it be good or bad, inasmuch as the opportunity of so doing has passed.

The Undersigned hopes that his Excellency will do him the justice to admit that he cannot occupy himself in this note with the other questions that his Excellency introduces into his note, because if, upon this principle, we were to go on mixing up questions indiscriminately, their solution would become more and more intricate, and eventually impossible. If, on the contrary, we give to each one the independent place its nature requires, its solution will be as easy as it will be prompt.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

LEON GUZMAN.

Inclosure 8 in No. 10.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Guzman.

Sir,

Mexico, June 18, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's note of the 15th instant, a careful perusal of which leads me to infer that you think you have a right to complain of the tone of my communication of the 14th, to which it is a reply.

In that despatch I endeavoured, in terms as clear and concise as possible, to put the question which has given rise to the present correspondence in its proper light, and in doing so I conceive I was fulfilling a duty imperative on me to perform, as no possible misunderstanding as to the views of Her Majesty's Government with reference to this matter must arise, as far as it lies in my power to prevent it.

On the 17th of November last, an outrage was committed by the *de facto* Government of Mexico on the Legation of a friendly Power, which was not only a disgrace to its perpetrators, but a direct act of felony on the subjects of that Power, and this crime up to the present moment remains unatoned for.

It is not by the vain promises of an agreement, never yet acted up to, that such a scandal can either be forgotten or forgiven, and therefore I should be deceiving you, were I not clearly to point out that Her Majesty's Government will hold the Republic of Mexico and its Government directly responsible for what is complained of.

In succeeding to the offices of your predecessors, you have inherited their responsibilities, and international law renders these as binding on you as if the last three years' civil war had never existed, and you had peaceably succeeded to the places of the former Administration. The continuance of the good relations now existing between our respective Governments renders the clear understanding of this principle absolutely necessary, and, therefore, no false delicacy shall prevent my insisting upon it, however

ungracious it may appear on my part thus repeatedly urging it upon your Excellency's attention.

You inform me that no doctrine was laid down in your Excellency's note of the 12th, but that acts were therein recalled, "acts consigned in an agreement concluded between the accredited Agents of our respective Governments."

I have looked in vain in that communication for the mention of any act of reparation, and have found only promises of redress to the effect that the personal property of the individuals who committed the outrages shall, if condemned by the legal authorities, be held liable to indemnify the losses sustained by British subjects on the occasion referred to.

Now, in the first place, the legal process which you mention, has, up to the present moment, resulted in absolutely nothing, and, in the second, had it even produced the full effects which you desired, the pecuniary resources thus obtained would have proved quite inadequate to cover the loss sustained, as it is notorious that the value of the united property of all the parties concerned in the Legation robbery would not exceed one-sixth part of the money stolen on that occasion.

Your Excellency informs me that your Government is disposed to treat questions of right on the grounds of justice and reason, but will not allow them to be prejudiced by being introduced incidentally and out of place, in violation of established form.

It is in complete accordance with the rule that you have thus laid down, that I now again call upon your Government to treat this grave question on the principles of justice and right, by adopting serious measures for repairing the wrong done, instead of repeating promises which have hitherto led to nothing, and which never can lead, as already pointed out, to anything but a partial reparation of an insult and an injury to the nation which I have the honour to represent.

I see no use whatever in prolonging a correspondence on this subject, which must be treated according to the well-defined principles of international law, and not according to the partial wishes of one of the parties interested in it.

Having thus placed you in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government with reference to this question, I avail, &c.,

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 11.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received July 29.)

My Lord,

Mexico, June 24, 1861.

ON the recognition of the Juarez Government by Mr. Mathew it was agreed on with them that the remainder of the money due from the robbery of the "Laguna Seca" conducta should be repaid within four months from the date of such recognition.

The term having expired on the 11th instant, I then addressed a note to Señor Guzman on the subject, copy of which I have herewith the honour to inclose, together with the translation of his Excellency's reply, by which your Lordship will perceive that the difficulty of the situation and the penury of the Treasury are urged as excuses for not fulfilling their engagement by the payment in specie of the debt owing. Such being the case he offers compensation in the shape of convents, farms recently belonging to the Church, or even the National Palace itself; and if these should not suffice, his Excellency proposes that each individual claim shall be admitted to the full amount in payment of duties on any future importations made by any of the parties having such claims. Nothing can apparently be fairer than such a proposal, but to anybody actually on the spot its unsatisfactory nature is at once apparent for the following reasons:—

Were this Government to be upset and the Church party to return to power, any such grants as those above-named would at once be repudiated; and the remission of duties, which is the most plausible of the proposals made, might at any moment be set aside by a Decree founded on the urgent necessities of the Government for ready money to carry on their current expenses.

On my communicating a copy of Señor Guzman's note of the 12th, through Consul Glennie, to the parties interested, they after due consideration refused the offer made on these grounds; at the same time saying that what they wanted was ready money to meet the engagements which had devolved on them in consequence of the robbery of the "Laguna Seca" conducta, which refusal I conveyed to Señor Guzman in a note dated the 22nd instant, copy of which I have now the honour to inclose.

Knowing the utter impossibility of obtaining ready money from a Government which is actually penniless, I recommended the parties interested not to refuse listening to any further proposals that the Mexican Commissioners might have to make them, and they in compliance with my recommendation have accordingly named two members of their body to represent them in the Conferences now about to take place with reference to this matter. Thus stands the case at present, and I fear that in this instance also the interests of British subjects will again be sacrificed to the reckless folly and bad faith of this Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Guzman.

Sir,

Mexico, June 11, 1861.

A FEW days ago I had the honour of explaining to your Excellency the present position of what is generally known as the "Laguna Seca" conducta claim, and as on that occasion I gathered from your Excellency's remarks that the Mexican Government considered itself bound to carry out in all sincerity the arrangements for repayment laid down in Señor Zarco's note to Mr. Mathew of the 12th of February last, I request your Excellency to inform me, at your earliest convenience, to whom the sufferers by the above named robbery are to apply, at the ports of Vera Cruz and Tampico, for the sum of money forcibly taken from them by Señor Degollado at Laguna Seca.

This sum, as I believe your Excellency is aware, amounts with interest to 285,569 dollars 38 cents, and I may further add that every British subject interested in the question is furnished with, and ready to produce, the documents necessary to prove the legitimacy of his particular reclamation.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Señor Guzman to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Mexico, June 12, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to reply to the note of his Excellency Sir C. Lennox Wyke, &c., under date of yesterday, and to inform him that the Government of Mexico always has been and ever will be ready to fulfil its engagements with British subjects. This is more especially the case with respect to the funds seized by General Degollado at Laguna Seca, so much so that even when the Government was compelled to make a general suspension of payments care was taken not to include therein the funds in question.

The Government has spared no effort to get together sufficient moneys for meeting the debt, the payment of which, with the fullest intention of acting up to their engagements, they had fixed for the 11th instant. The difficulties, however, of the moment, combined with the penury of the Treasury—facts which are now publicly notorious, and have doubtless come to the knowledge of your Excellency—have rendered of no avail the efforts of Government, and frustrated their best intentions; still good security has been given, and no small portion of the Laguna Seca credits taken as cash-payments.

Thus, then, the Undersigned is under the painful necessity of informing your Excellency that it will be quite impossible for the Government to fulfil at the specified time their engagements in the matter of Laguna Seca, and they are consequently placed in the painful position of having to enter into some fresh arrangement with the parties interested therein.

If the financial crisis was of less import—if the Government could count upon their actual resources being sufficient to cover even a portion of their most pressing liabilities, they would assign part of those resources for the settlement of the above preferential claim. Owing, however, to the extreme scarcity of money, and to the certainty that for the moment cash-payments are quite out of the question, they prefer avowing honestly their actual position to hazarding some new promise, which they would find themselves under the painful necessity of breaking.

The Government recognizes the just rights of the creditors, and are resolved upon making every possible sacrifice in order to satisfy them. Government can dispose of convents and other valuable property. These, and even the National Palace, are at the creditors' disposal; they may take their choice, and whatever they select shall at once be consigned to them at an equitable and conventional price.

These same creditors, moreover, can count upon their credits being admitted as cash in any transactions, whether on account of duties or otherwise, which they may have with Government.

In order satisfactorily to arrange their business Mr. Deputy Mata and Señor Zarco have been appointed Commissioners to treat with the parties interested, who on their part may likewise talk over the matter with those gentlemen and make whatever propositions they may deem suitable, always remembering that the Government will leave nothing undone to bring the question at issue to an amicable and successful termination.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) LEON GUZMAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Guzman.

Sir,

Mexico, June 22, 1861.

ON the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 12th instant I communicated a copy of it to those persons directly interested in the question to which it referred.

It was only yesterday that I was made acquainted with their views on the subject, which I will now put you in possession of as briefly as possible. They naturally cannot accept the plea of poverty put forward to excuse the non-payment of so sacred an obligation as that contracted by the Mexican Government with Her Majesty's late Chargé d'Affaires on the occasion of that Government receiving the formal recognition of Great Britain, when the repayment within the space of four months of the money belonging to British subjects that had been stolen from the conducta of the Laguna Seca was one of the express conditions on which that recognition depended. Since that engagement was entered into several millions of hard dollars have passed through the hands of the Mexican Government, so that they cannot with anything like reason plead their poverty as an excuse for not having provided the funds necessary to meet the demand now brought against them.

It is clear that as specie was stolen money should be repaid, for it is with currency alone, or good bills to the same amount, that the engagements of the sufferers in this affair can be duly met. Farms, convents, or even the National Palace itself, may be valuable property in its way, and yet not at all suit the wants of those who, as in the present instance, would not be able to convert it into ready money for their immediate necessities.

For these reasons the parties interested cannot accept the offer of indemnification made to them in your Excellency's letter to me above-mentioned, and must hold the Mexican Government responsible for all loss and prejudice accruing to them through that Government failing to repay the money owing within the time specified.

As, however, it would not be courteous absolutely to refuse the offer made in your Excellency's letter of the 12th, I have recommended the parties interested to name two amongst their number to wait on the Commissioners appointed by your Excellency, in order to learn from those gentlemen what further steps the Mexican Government intends taking with a view of satisfying this pending claim against them.

I have just learnt that Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Watson have been appointed by the English merchants to confer with your Commissioners, Don José M. Mata and Don Francisco Zarco, and I trust that, in the conferences about to be held between them, some means may be found for protecting the interests, and at the same time satisfying the just demands, of those persons in whose name I have had the honour to address you.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received July 29.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, June 25, 1861.

A PERUSAL of my preceding despatches and their inclosures will prove to your Lordship that no further reliance can be placed on the promises or even the formal engagements of the Mexican Government.

If the old Church party succeeds in driving from power the present ultra-Liberal Administration, we shall then be even still worse off, as will be seen by the inclosed copy of a Decree recently sent to me by ex-President Zuloaga, who, with his Lieutenant Marquez, is at the head of a considerable armed force, which, after twice defeating the Government troops, is at this very moment attacking the gates of the city of Mexico.

It will thus be seen, that with the contending parties we have not a chance of obtaining justice from either as long as we confine ourselves to remonstrating instead of employing coercion.

Under such circumstances, it appears to me that only two courses are open to us, viz., either to withdraw the Mission altogether from a country where its dignity is compromised, and where consequently it has become useless, or else to support its influence by such means as will compel obedience to our just demands, and obtain that redress for the wrongs and grievances of British subjects which they are lawfully entitled to claim.

There is but one way of obtaining such redress, and that is, by employing Her Majesty's naval forces simultaneously at the ports on both coasts of this Republic, when the moral effect produced would equal the material pressure, and ensure prompt compliance with any conditions which we might choose to impose.

Captain Aldham, who during the last three years has gained a very clear insight into the Mexican character, and the manner of evading their engagements so peculiar to their officials, is of opinion that the time for leniency is past, and that if we mean to protect the lives and properties of British subjects, coercive measures must now be employed.

Before he left the station I consulted with him upon the best means of using such coercion should it become inevitable, and I will now convey his views to your Lordship in as few words as possible.

He thinks that a blockade is not advisable, on account of the large force that would be required for that purpose on so extensive a line of coast, to say nothing of the commercial difficulties to which it would give rise, besides the fact that by so blockading we should actually be robbing ourselves of the per-centage on the duties levied at Vera Cruz and Tampico.

This plan, then, presenting so many objections, Captain Aldham is of opinion that the next best thing to be done is to take possession of the Custom-houses of Vera Cruz, Tampico, and Matamoros, on the Atlantic, and of either Acapulco, Mazatlan, or San Blas, on the Pacific; to lower the duties on all goods landed at those places; and to pay ourselves by the per-centage to which we are entitled, but which we now never obtain, owing to the rascality of the Mexican authorities, who either suspend payment altogether, or only give us one-fifth of what we ought to receive. Reducing the Tariff would naturally largely increase the importations, and thus enable us rapidly to pay off long arrears of what is now owing to us, and which we shall never obtain without some measure of this sort being adopted.

It may be urged against this plan, that the Mexican Government would place a line of interior Custom-houses for levying other duties, and thus partially defeat the object we have in view. But this objection is easily set aside by anybody really knowing the country, as the badly paid and venal officers serving on this second line would not be able to resist the temptations which the importers at the ports who had paid only a low entrance duty would know how to throw in their way; besides, the Mexican traders themselves would not allow such an impost to be levied, and would, for their own interests, force the goods into the interior, when by their sale they would realize large profits.

In order to take and hold these places, Captain Aldham considers that a squadron of from six to ten vessels of war should be employed; some of these should be of the frigate class, and others gun-boats drawing not more than from seven to eight feet of water.

Vera Cruz and Tampico are the most important places on the Atlantic, owing to

their trade and the specie shipped there, and these are the only places on either coast which would, in Captain Aldham's opinion, require any force to take possession of. Two frigates at the anchorage, and a garrison of 300 men for the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa, would be sufficient to hold the former town, it being completely commanded by the Castle, which is roomy and airy, and not unfitted, Captain Aldham says, for a British garrison.

Tampico lies some seven miles up the river, which has seldom more than six to ten feet of water on the bar. There would be no difficulty in taking the place, and a garrison of from 100 to 200 men, with one or two gun-boats, he thinks enough to hold it.

On the Pacific coast, Acapulco is probably the most important place for trade; Mazatlan comes next, and then San Blas.

The former has a good anchorage, but its climate is unhealthy. Mazatlan could easily be garrisoned by a small force, and there is high ground overlooking the town already fortified.

San Blas is an open roadstead, and unsafe in the rainy season; it is of importance from its trade, and the specie shipped there.

For the object we have in view, I think taking one or two of these places quite sufficient, and the naval officer in command on that coast could use his discretion as to which of them he should occupy.

Should Her Majesty's Government adopt a course which I am convinced will prevent all future difficulties with Mexico, the sooner measures are taken for carrying this plan into execution the better, for the sake of putting a stop to an accumulation of grievances and claims which will go on increasing until this Government is taught that it cannot set every principle of justice at defiance with impunity.

The French have only a small debt of 190,000 dollars to recover, which is being chiefly paid off by 25 per cent. of the import duties levied at Vera Cruz on cargoes brought in French ships. The Spanish claim 8 per cent. on all import duties for some claim of theirs which is in suspense, and therefore the interest thereon is not paid. Besides this they have what is known as the Padre Moran claim of 825,000 dollars, which receives about a sixth of the sum assigned to the British Convention.

I mention these obligations to foreign Governments because they would gladly see our occupation of these ports, from a knowledge that under our administration justice would be awarded to all, and that the money thus collected would be fairly distributed amongst the various claimants.

From the moment that we show our determination no longer to suffer British subjects to be robbed and murdered with impunity, we shall be respected, and every rational Mexican will approve of a measure which they themselves are the first to say is necessary, in order to put a stop to the excesses daily and hourly committed under a Government as corrupt as it is powerless to maintain order, or cause its own laws to be executed.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Decree.

(Translation.)

FELIX ZULOAGA, General of Brigade and President *ad interim* of the Mexican Republic, to its inhabitants. Be it known—

That in virtue of the full powers with which I am invested, I have been pleased to decree the following:—

Article 1. The party in Mexico that at present assumes the title of Government, not possessing any character of legality, all its acts are null and void, and for the same reason the Government of Tacubaya does not recognize any engagements that may be entered into with the Government that has intruded itself into power.

Art. 2. Every individual who shall lend to the faction denominated "Constitutional" any sort of help, whether as a loan or in any other manner, shall pay afterwards to the Government of Tacubaya double the quantity that he may have furnished, and will remain subject to the penalties which he may have incurred, as settled by the law, as an enemy of his country.

Art. 3. All foreigners, of whatever nationality they may be, are included in the preceding Articles.

Given at Head-quarters, at Tepeji del Rio, this 4th of June, 1861.

(Signed) FELIX ZULOAGA.

To the Under-Secretary of State charged with the Department, Don Antonio Andrade.

I have the honour to communicate the above to your Excellency for your information, and for the due fulfilment of the same."

God and Order!

Tepeji del Rio, June 4, 1861.

(Signed) J. ANTO. ANDRADE.

No. 13.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received July 29.)

My Lord,

Mexico, June 27, 1861.

ALTHOUGH the inclosed extract from this day's "Mexican Extraordinary" gives an account of the outrages perpetrated on British subjects which is not accurate in all its details, I still think it worthy of your Lordship's notice, as showing at a glance the amount of wrong done, which still remains to be atoned for.

The list is unfortunately by no means complete, but I forward it as it is, in order that your Lordship may form an idea of the indignation felt by the English community in Mexico at being subjected to such brutality, without ever obtaining redress from the successive Governments of this Republic, each of which invariably asserts that it is not responsible for the acts of its predecessor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Extract from the "Mexican Extraordinary" of June 27, 1861.

FOREIGN INTERESTS IN MEXICO.—No. 2.

British Claims of the Small and most Distressing Class.

ON the 25th of last month we referred at some length to the condition of British interests in Mexico. We now resume the subject and shall notice on this occasion a portion of the most flagrant outrages which have been perpetrated upon British residents, leaving for another occasion the publication of more, and our own lengthened remarks. The robbery of the Legation and the various "conductas" are subjects fresh in the memory of every one, and as these outrages affect the interests of the wealthy and influential, they are likely to absorb that attention which should, we submit, be shared by the humbler sufferer. Our mission is to lay facts before the world and thus to excite action, and it little matters whether it be from motives of duty or from shame, so long as our proper protectors are made to move. In continuation we give a brief notice of some of the objects of our present article:—

Mr. Bodmer's Case.—This gentleman, who was Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Tasco, was shot in the balcony of his house whilst endeavouring to save an unfortunate Mexican from ill-treatment at the hands of some of Vicario's troops, who had made a sudden irruption into the town. Mr. Bodmer was a man universally respected; upon three several occasions had he saved the city of Tasco from being sacked by one or other of the contending parties. He held a very lucrative appointment in the mine of the Pedregal, and has left a widow and three children, totally unprovided for.

Mr. Burnand's Case.—This gentleman was the first to establish a manufactory of glass in this country.

In the year 1852 he erected on some property, situated about five leagues from the city of Mexico, a manufactory on a very considerable scale, and had just got it into working order, when the whole of the premises were arbitrarily taken possession of by Santa Anna, and it was not until the end of 1856 when Comonfort came to the head of affairs, that the property was restored to him, but in so dilapidated and ruined a condition that it was two years before he could place the factory in a proper state to resume operations. In March 1860 the factory was attacked by a portion of the Liberal forces and sacked, and on the 2nd of April of the same year another body of men belonging to the same party entered the premises at night, attacked Mr. Burnand, inflicted on him sixteen sabre cuts, broke three of his ribs, left him for dead, and effectually destroyed all that had been spared by their predecessors. The life of Mr. Burnand was for a long time despaired of, his left arm had to be amputated, and he is now a man wreck. The shock

was so great that his poor wife lost her senses, and his oldest daughter has now since been subject to epileptic fits. From being a man of considerable property, Mr. Burnand has been reduced almost to a state of starvation. Maimed, mutilated, and reduced in health it is no longer in his power by his own exertion to provide for his unfortunate family, and all he has to look to is the reparation that may be exacted from the Mexican nation for these repeated and fearful outrages. Should this case fall under the observation of Her Majesty's Ministers, as we trust it will, surely immediate steps will be taken to relieve this gentleman and his family from the utter state of destitution into which they have been plunged.

Dr. Duval's Case.—Dr. Duval was an Englishman, born at Kensington, near London. When the Constitutional forces entered Tacubaya, on the 22nd of March, 1859, he was at the head of the Medical Staff, a position he retained until the day of his death. On the 11th of April Marquez entered Tacubaya at the head of the reactionary forces, and, in taking possession of the hospital of San Diego, promised most solemnly that the lives of the sick and wounded, as well as those of the medical men, were safe. At half-past 7 o'clock of the same evening, however, in spite of this assurance, and in violation of the ordinary laws of civilized warfare, Dr. Duval, in company with seven other medical men, was taken out and shot. He was not allowed to communicate with any of his countrymen, and it was not until the following morning that this monstrous murder became generally known. Notwithstanding the most strenuous efforts made by the Miramon Government, with the connivance of Mr. Otway, to justify this horrid proceeding, so damning was the evidence that the British Government could do no otherwise than insist upon some pecuniary compensation for the widow and child of their murdered citizen.

The amount fixed was 25,000 dollars, but no steps were taken to exact this sum from the murderers during their continuance in power, nor has the same, as far as we can learn, been paid.

Mr. Newall's Case.—Mr. Newall, an inhabitant of Zacatecas, a member of one of the oldest and most respected firms in the country, as agent for Mr. Davis, of San Luis Potosi, received the sum of 15,950 dollars, and gave the usual receipt. This receipt fell into the hands of Marquez, who sent for Mr. Newall, and required of him, at once, to hand over the money. Mr. Newall replied that it was impossible for him to do so, as the money was not his. The General then called in a guard and said, "Take this man, put him in "capilla" (the place assigned to criminals for the few hours previous to their execution), and without further orders shoot him to-morrow morning before 6 o'clock." Mr. Newall was marched off, thrown into "capilla," and would, no doubt, have been shot, had not some of his friends raised the money amongst themselves, and paying it into the hands of Marquez, obtained his release.

The English Government showed their appreciation of the conduct of a citizen, who, at the risk of his life, refused to betray a trust reposed in him by another, by awarding him the very magnificent sum of 500*l.*, the estimated value of a British merchant's life in Mexico.

Mr. Pitman's Case.—Mr. Pitman, of the firm of Simpson and Pitman, of San Luis Potosi, was imprisoned and made to pay the sum of 5,100 dollars, under the following circumstances :

When the Constitutional forces were in possession of San Luis, Mr. Pitman, in the usual course of business, upon the admission of goods, paid the duties to the properly constituted authorities. Subsequently Miramon, the leader of the Church faction, took possession of the town, and he demanded the payment over again of the same duties. Mr. Pitman, for refusing this exaction, was thrown into prison, and would have been marched off as a common soldier, had he not, to avoid the latter alternative, paid the amount.

Mr. Davis' Case.—This gentleman, in June 1858, was assessed at 2,000 dollars in a forced loan, imposed upon the merchants of San Luis Potosi by General Miramon. This amount he refused to pay, as contrary to existing treaties. He was seized by Miramon, thrown into prison, subsequently marched off as a common soldier with the troops sent against the opposite faction, and only rescued by a friend who paid the 2,000 dollars, and obtained his release.

Cases of Messrs. Whitehead and Potts.—These gentlemen were both banished from the country for expressing their horror at the atrocities that followed the massacre at Tacubaya on the 11th April, 1859.

Application was made to Mr. Otway in writing, pointing out to him the imminent peril to which Englishmen were exposed if abandoned to the unbridled and savage will of Miramon and Marquez, who, without even a form of trial, slaughtered so many innocent victims at Tacubaya, and in cold blood, rather more than two years ago. Amongst the

murdered men was Dr. Duval, an English surgeon, who with other medical men was dragged from the bedside of the wounded, while amputating the shattered limbs and stanching the gushing arteries of numbers of poor creatures, who, from want of assistance, perished during that memorable and dreadful night. Lamentation brought them no aid. Marquez and Miramon had murdered the only ones who could give them comfort, and they bled to death!

Another English victim was, at the same time, waiting the moment of execution. George Selly, a peaceable resident of Tacubaya, was seized and forced from his house, and, as poor Dr. Duval, without trial or inquiry, was taken out to be shot, but was miraculously saved by the timely interference of a Mexican officer, who met him on his way to the place of execution.

As has been already mentioned, a brief statement of these horrors, signed by almost every Englishman here, was laid before Mr. Otway, imploring him to use his influence to check these cruelties, and asking protection for Englishmen from the grasp of these sanguinary men; and, strange as it may seem, this document, by means better known than explained, made its appearance in the palace, where it was translated and published in pamphlet form, and the Miramon Government accused the signers of having published it.

The consequence of this was that orders were issued for the immediate banishment of five of those whose signatures appeared on the petition, Messrs. Potts and Whitehead being of the number.

Remonstrances and repeated denials on their part to Mr. Otway of all knowledge or complicity in the affair were unavailing: so to satisfy the wishes and assist a zealous partizan in carrying out his treacherous designs against those he was paid to protect, the order was enforced, and these gentlemen left the country and laid their cases before Lord John Russell, who, on becoming acquainted with the outrage, demanded the withdrawal of the passports and fair indemnities.

The amounts of these reclamations have been fixed in both cases in accordance with instructions from home, and demands have been made upon the Mexican Government, and even payment promised; but as these demands have not been insisted upon, the subject has remained where it was a year ago—whilst millions of dollars have been allowed to find their way into the pockets of people to whom the nation owed nothing. Those whose interests have been almost ruined by violence and plunder meet with but indifference and neglect.

Mr. Jones' Claim.—In the year 1826, Mr. R. Lancaster Jones was Secretary to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General in Mexico.

On the solicitation of the Governor of the State of Jalisco, and according to the popular spirit of the day in England, he went to Guadalajara, and established a school on the Lancasterian system.

The Mexican Government permanently, to secure his services, guaranteed him a fixed salary of 2,000 dollars a-year.

From 1826 to 1834 this salary was paid, but in the latter year Mr. Jones was turned out of his employment without any pretext, and left destitute.

The case was brought under the notice of the British Legation, and in the year 1852 an arrangement was come to by which the Mexican Government acknowledged the justice of the case, and their indebtedness to Mr. Jones in 28,800 dollars.

Not one dollar of this sum was ever paid to Mr. Jones, who died some years back in very distressed circumstances. The amount, with interest, is now claimed by the widow and children.

A more cruel case it is almost impossible to conceive. A man holding an honourable and lucrative employment was, from purely philanthropic motives, induced to give it up, upon the promise of an annuity of 2,000 dollars a-year. After the interval of eight years, the annuity is withheld, and the man and his family are left in absolute want. The robbery of a "conducta" may be a more striking event, and may more internally affect the interests of British merchants; but can it be a comparison in point of hardship with the case of Mr. Jones? And yet, forsooth, this injured man and his family have been allowed to drag through twenty-six years of suffering, and up to the present moment no steps have been taken by our Government to compel the payment of a sum which the Mexican Government, in a settlement with Her Majesty's Legation, have themselves admitted to be due.

George Selly.—Was residing in Tacubaya at the time the Constitutional forces retired on the 11th April, 1859. About 12 o'clock on that day, whilst at breakfast with his wife and child, was seized in his own house and conducted to San Diego, and there confined with Duval and the other victims of the famed massacre, whose fate he providentially escaped. He was kept there until the middle of the next day, and then led in triumph, at

the head of the prisoners, through the streets of Mexico; was then taken to the citadel, locked up in a filthy dungeon, and there kept until the following day, when he was led out in company with two others and marched to Tacubaya to be shot, and providentially saved by the interference of a Mexican General, who met him on his way and who prevailed upon the officer in command to defer the execution, which gave time for the interference of Mr. Otway to take steps.

The pretext for this barbarous treatment was that George Selly had mixed himself up with the Liberal party: this was disproved by the evidence of twenty-two of the most respectable inhabitants of Tacubaya; and the utmost that could be laid to his charge was, that during the continuance of the Liberal forces in Tacubaya, he, as a means of livelihood, supplied the mess of four of the officers. After much delay, from the unrighteous opposition of Mr. Otway, his Government, more than a year back, declared that "Selly's entire innocence had been amply vindicated, and had established his claim to be compensated for the indignities to which he has been exposed."

For this fearful outrage a sum of 2,500 dollars has, it is said, been asked as compensation; but no steps taken to enforce payment. Selly is a poor man.

The case of Mr. Lynch.—On the 11th June, 1858, General Miramon, commanding the Reactionary forces at San Luis Potosi, imposed a forced loan upon the merchants of that town.

Mr. Pitman, an English merchant residing in that town, was assessed at 10,000 dollars, and required to pay the amount before night of the same day (11th June), on pain of imprisonment. The assessment in this case appears to have been excessive, as firms possessing larger capitals had been assessed in much smaller sums. Mr. Pitman called upon the General to remonstrate with him upon these arbitrary proceedings, but was unable to see him; he was, however, informed by others, that it was Miramon's determination to carry out the loan, and that all who refused to pay, natives or foreigners, would be marched off as common soldiers with the troops about to leave that night. Mr. Pitman then applied to Mr. Chabot, the English Consul, but all that gentleman's exertions on his behalf proved unavailing.

Mr. Pitman and his lady, fearing personal violence, took up their residence in Mr. Chabot's house, leaving his establishment in charge of Mr. Lynch, his confidential clerk, never for one moment supposing that any outrage would be committed against this latter gentleman.

At 6 o'clock, however, of the following morning, the house was entered by order of Miramon; Mr. Lynch was taken to prison, and would have been marched off as a common soldier, had not Mr. Pitman requested Mr. Chabot to pay 6,000 dollars, the amount to which the assessment had been reduced, and so obtained his release.

Case of Mr. R. J. Perry.—On the 18th October, 1858, this gentleman was arbitrarily arrested and thrown into prison by General Zuloaga (then President of the capital), and kept in close confinement for several days, without being allowed to communicate with his Consul, friends, or counsel. He was detained in prison and under arrest twenty-eight days, without being brought to trial, or any charge or accusation being made against him; without being consigned to any Judge, or any declaration taken from him, and even without being informed of the cause of his arrest: and finally, he was expelled the country at a few hours' notice, without being accused of any crime or misdemeanour.

The consequence was, that he was suddenly obliged to close, settle, and wind up, at any sacrifice, or abandon all his accounts and business transactions to a considerable magnitude he had pending in this country, after a continued residence in it for nearly eighteen years. Those outrageous proceedings have caused his total ruin, and he now finds himself, after having spent the best years of his life in acquiring, by his honest industry, comparative affluence, reduced to want and ruin.

On his arrival in England, he applied to the British Government for protection and redress, and after overcoming innumerable difficulties, has lately returned to this country, under authority, and at the suggestion of the Foreign Office, with the view of prosecuting his claim there, but as yet has done so without any result.

The alleged pretext for his prosecution was his supposed sympathy with the party now in power, the real motive or cause, as is well known here, being private matters of too delicate a nature to be made the subject of our comment.

Mr. Worrall's case.—Mr. Worrall was assessed for a forced loan, and on applying at the Legation for advice, was shown by Mr. Otway a despatch from Lord Malmesbury, which recommends British subjects to pay such forced loans under protest and on compulsion. In consequence of having made this protest, Mr. Worrall was arrested a few days afterwards in the public streets of Mexico by Lagarde, and sent off to Vera Cruz next morning, having thus to abandon heavy private interests in this country.

On submitting his claim for indemnity at the Foreign Office, Lord Malmesbury wrote him, stating "that there was no justification for the conduct of the Mexican Government in your case, and that it was his Lordship's intention to instruct Her Majesty's Minister in Mexico to require that you shall be properly compensated for the treatment you have undergone, and the losses you have sustained."

Although a Convention was signed by Mr. Otway in March 1859, assigning Mr. Worrall an indemnity, and although this Government even directed Mr. Worrall, through the Foreign Office, to apply to Messrs. Barings for its amount, yet no money was remitted, and up to the present moment not a dollar has been paid.

Very little encouragement is given to British subjects standing up for Treaty rights, if the present case is a fair instance of home protection.

Claim of Messrs. Bates, Jamison, and Co.—This claim is now represented by Messrs. Bates, Barton, and Co. of the city of Mexico, and is for a sum of 8,815 dollars and 2 cents, the unpaid balance of a Government order for 98,000 dollars for import duties illegally exacted. The interest has only been calculated up to the month of April 1859.

Mr. Charles B. Lambley.—Plunder of his house, on two separate occasions, by soldiers under the command of Chiefs of the Constitutional party.

Mr. Thomas Gillow.—Repeated embargoes of waggons, mules, and horses, for the transport of cannon and military stores. As this claimant farms a very considerable estate, it is unnecessary to point out how serious must have been all consequential damages, in addition to those of the mere embargo.

Mr. John Innes.—Plunder of his store at Ejutla, in the Department of Oajaca, by soldiers of the Central Government party, under the command of Cobos. There are a number more claims of the same character preferred by Englishmen resident in Oajaca, of which we have not yet received full details.

Mr. Daniel Owen.—Plunder of his goods by soldiers of the Central Government, under the command of General Echeagaray, on the 17th April, 1858.

Mr. John Sumner.—Plunder of his house at Tlalpam, on the 17th October, 1858, by a party of soldiers under the command of the Constitutional Chief, Don Ignacio Delgado.

Mr. Thos. Fuller.—Embargo by General Pueblita in November 1856, of waggons, mules, and effects, belonging to Mr. Fuller's extensive carrying establishment, thereby disabling him from fulfilling a contract with the Real del Monte Mining Company, for carrying ore from that Company's mines at Pachuca to their ore depôt at Real del Monte. The loss of this contract, in itself a most profitable one, is attested by the certificate of the Director of the Real del Monte Company. It entailed upon Mr. Fuller very heavy additional expenses, as he had to maintain upwards of 100 pack-mules without work. Subsequently he was compelled to break up a very profitable carrying business, and sell the mules he was unable to maintain, in consequence of the loss of his contract, for a little more than half their original cost. In fact, this cruel outrage created such an embarrassment in the affairs of Mr. Fuller, as to bring him to the verge of ruin, from which he has not recovered, and for which his claim will be very insufficient compensation.

Mr. William Hooper.—Plunder of effects, consisting of wearing apparel, books, papers, accounts, and mathematical and other scientific instruments, by a body of revolutionary troops during the sacking of the city of Culiacan, Department of Sinaloa, in the month of March 1852, as attested by the Judge of that city, Don Eustaquio Buelna, in a judicial document under date of 10th March, 1856.

Mr. Elliot Turnbull.—This claim originated in the forcible entry of a large body of troops into Turnbull's hacienda, about ten miles from the city of Puebla, in the month of May 1858, and of robberies and destruction of property committed by them. Mr. Turnbull was especially recommended by Her Majesty's Ministers to obtain the necessary proofs. These proofs are now in his possession and consist of sworn declarations of several witnesses to the act, taken before the Judge of the district.

Extra Duties Illegally Exacted.

			dollars.	cents.
Messrs. Graham, Geaves and Co.	..	..	10,623	74
„ Bates, Barton and Co.	..	..	4,929	87
„ Watermeyer, Kauffman and Co.	..	..	5,545	22
„ J. J. Schmidt and Co.	..	..	5,246	82

These claims originated in the following manner:—By a sudden and unexpected Decree issued by the General Government on the 31st of May, 1858, an extra 10

per cent. "international" duty, and 20 per cent. import duty, were imposed on all goods coming from Vera Cruz. This imposition, contrary to the express stipulations of the existing Tariff, was at once most energetically protested against by Her Majesty's Minister. The Decree, although not repealed, was never again acted upon by the Mexican Government—a clear admission of its illegality.

The number of instances in which foreign Governments have demanded and compelled restitution of sums thus illegally exacted, are too well known to require enumeration, and it is unnecessary for us to point out how impossible it would be to carry out successfully any commercial transactions under a system of tariff at any moment admitting of sudden and arbitrary changes by the Mexican Government, or the illegality of their act: the sums exacted during the temporary operation of the Decree still remain unpaid.

These sums, requiring no further proof or verification than the production of Custom-house receipts, ought, we submit, to be considered as admitted claims.

Matamoros Fire Claim.—This is a claim for goods destroyed by fire at Matamoros, in October 1851. The goods were warehoused in a house occupied by the Government forces under General Avalos. The town was suddenly attacked by Carbajal, at the head of the rebel forces. The block of houses in which the goods were placed formed a prominent point in the line of defence, and was fortified and held by a portion of the Government troops. It was subsequently set fire to by the rebels, and the whole of the goods were destroyed. No notice was given by General Avalos of his intention to fortify the block, nor was any time given or opportunity afforded for the removal of the goods. A certificate of General Avalos proves the occupation and fortification of the premises for the purposes of defence, and their destruction by fire.

No valid objection has ever been raised by the Mexican Government to this claim, and their liability to make good the losses inflicted upon the losers, Messrs. Bates, Jamison and Co., under such circumstances, cannot admit of a doubt. The principle has been so clearly laid down in numberless cases, that to hold a different doctrine would be subversive of the very first principles of international law. To admit of a different principle in a country like Mexico, ever torn by internecine strife, would be to place the property of neutrals unconditionally at the mercy of Military Chiefs. The Decree issued by President Juarez, upon the occasion of the bombardment of Vera Cruz by General Miramon, in the month of April last year, providing for the indemnification of neutrals whose property had suffered by that bombardment, places the question beyond dispute. The subject has been frequently urged upon the consideration of the Mexican Government, but hitherto without results.

The claim now put forward by Messrs. Bates, Barton and Co., as successors to Bates Jamison and Co., is for—

	dollars	cents.
226 packages of merchandize destroyed under the circumstances above detailed, of the value of ..	37,144	04
And interest at 6 per cent., to April 1859 ..	20,389	07
Total ..	57,524	11

The foregoing list of claims against the Mexican nation, although it does not contain all, presents such a frightful catalogue of murder, spoliation, and robbery, that except it was vouched for on the most solemn and truest grounds, would be scarcely credited. Scarcely credited, indeed, as having happened in a so-called civilized country against the subjects of a friendly nation; and yet this catalogue of outrage is still very incomplete, for many individuals, such as Staines, Egerton, Gibson, and others, have lost their lives by attacks in the streets, in their dwelling-houses, and on the public roads.

Justice has, indeed, here iron hands and leaden feet, but they are never lifted in favour of the defenceless foreigner; some little show of inquiry, a constant and incessant persecution of witnesses, and never-ending expenses and outlay to, perhaps, some spirited prosecutor, ending in a mockery of investigation, and an impunity for crime, are generally the utmost attained.

Who can ever tell of the bitter dying anguish of these neglected victims, and how in their awful moments of desertion the hopeless conviction haunted them that no inquiry would be made of their fate, and no punishment fall on their assassins?

And who can tell what desolation the love of fathers, sons, and brothers may have caused in some far-away homestead; how, instead of gladdening news, they have found that the angel of desolation has passed by and rendered their hearths desolate.

In the name of humanity outraged, we call for energy in redress against this whole-

sale trampling on treaties and international laws, and exactions from a country that professes to belong to the family of nations, a regard to the ordinary tenets of humanity, and a concordance with the creed of civilization.

No. 14.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received July 29.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, June 28, 1861.

THE past month has been fertile in events not only tragic in themselves, but terrible also from affording convincing proof of the degradation to which this unfortunate Republic has been reduced by the vindictive spirit of contending factions.

My correspondence by last mail informed your Lordship that the Church Party was still in arms, led by ex-President Zuloaga and his Lieutenant-General Marquez, who at the head of between 2,000 and 3,000 men were enabled not only to hold their ground, but actually to drive the Government troops before them and ravage the whole valley of Mexico.

On the 2nd instant news reached this city that Marquez had seized and shot Señor Ocampo, one of the leading men of the Liberal party, and recently their Minister for Foreign Affairs, who for the moment had retired from public life and was living quietly on his estate in the country. This intelligence caused the greatest excitement here, and gave rise to threats of vengeance against those unfortunate members of the Church Party who were confined in the prisons of this city.

The feeling of hatred against them became so strong that their relatives flocked to the different Legations and implored our intercession with the Government to protect the lives of the prisoners against the fury of the rabble. The French Minister, as doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, called a meeting of the different foreign Agents resident here, when it was unanimously agreed that we should seek an interview with the President, calling on him in the name of humanity to save these unfortunate persons, and at the same time to vindicate the authority of his Government against the attempts of that violent party in the State which meditated the commission of such a crime.

His Excellency received us very graciously, and stated that we need not be under the least anxiety, as he had already given orders for the guards to be doubled at the different prisons, besides adopting other measures to frustrate the evil intentions of those who wished thus to disgrace themselves and the country to which they belonged.

The President kept his word, for that very night when the rabble rushed to the prisons they were kept in check by the military, and obliged to disperse without effecting their object.

This interview took place on the 4th instant, and there were present at it, besides the President and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Ministers of France, England, Prussia, the United States, and the Chargé d'Affaires of Ecuador.

In the Congress stormy debates followed, and General Degollado, another distinguished member of the Liberal Party, asked for a command in order to pursue Marquez, and revenge the death of his former colleague. His request was granted in the midst of the greatest enthusiasm, and in a few days he marched at the head of a division towards Toluca in pursuit of the enemy. Whilst reconnoitring with a small party on the 16th instant, he was surprised by General Galvez, his party was dispersed and cut to pieces, and he himself killed.

The news of this event on reaching Mexico only added fuel to the fire, and General Ortega marched at the head of a strong body of Government troops to repair the disaster. Marquez retired before him from the 14th to the 23rd. The pursuit was hotly maintained, and General Valle, the most promising officer of the Liberal Party, marched with 1,500 men to try and intercept Marquez and force him to action. The latter by a masterly manœuvre joined Galvez, and with the united forces fell upon Valle, utterly routed and dispersed his forces, took him prisoner, shot him, and then hung his body on a tree. But one of the Government officers escaped to tell the tale; the others, with many of the poor soldiers, were butchered after the action.

These tidings spread terror in this community; the National Guard was called out, and the city has been declared under martial law. On the 25th a party of 400 of Marquez' men forced their way into the suburb of San Cosmé, and at one time it was thought would have captured the city, as they were supposed to be the vanguard of a much larger force. After carrying away some of their party who were prisoners in that part of the town, they retired with the loss of only one man killed and a few wounded.

These events, by proving the miserable improvidence of the present Government, have completely discredited President Juarez, and his retirement is now looked upon as an absolute necessity for the good of the commonwealth. As a preparatory step towards it, General Ortega has been elected Vice-President, in order to succeed to the Presidential Chair when Juarez resigns. Ortega, I fear, will do no better.

Congress has voted 10,000 dollars a-piece for the heads of Marquez and half-a-dozen other Chiefs of the Church party; but there is no probability of the money being called for, which is so far fortunate for the credit of Congress, as that sum is not at present to be found in the National Treasury.

I do not enter into details of persons carried off from here by Marquez to be either shot or ransomed, because by so doing I should only unnecessarily increase the length of this despatch, but will merely add, that nothing I can write would give your Lordship a correct idea of the miserable and disgraceful disorder which now reigns here, and which is only another proof, if one were wanted, of the utter incapacity of these people to govern themselves.

The Church Party are daily gaining ground, and, it is feared, may eventually succeed in capturing this city and driving the present Government again into the Provinces, thereby renewing all the horrors of a civil war which has devastated this unfortunate country for the last three years.

The Guzman Ministry resigned ten days ago, and such are the difficulties of the situation that no men have been yet found who are willing to take their places. In the meantime business is brought to a standstill, and any note one has to address to the Foreign Department remains unanswered.

No. 15.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 21, 1861.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches of the 24th, 25th, 27th, and 28th of June, and I have to convey to you the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government of your conduct as therein reported.

Her Majesty's Government have read, with much concern, your account of the deplorable condition of Mexico, but Her Majesty's Government cannot accept that condition as an excuse for the want of good faith shown by the late acts of the Mexican Government, and by the tone of Señor Guzman's correspondence with you.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government to be useless to continue negotiations with that Government, either as regards the repayment of the proceeds of the conducta robbery, or the money stolen from the British Legation, or the non-fulfilment of the Aldham and Dunlop compacts; and Her Majesty's Government will accordingly, in such manner as they shall deem most suitable, adopt more active measures to obtain redress.

I have now to instruct you to demand, in the first instance, of the Government of Mexico, that in the ports of Vera Cruz and Tampico Commissioners shall be placed, who shall be named by the British Government, for the purpose of appropriating to the Powers having Conventions with Mexico the assignments which those Conventions prescribe, which shall be paid out of the receipts of the maritime Custom-houses of the Republic; including, in the sums to be paid to the British Government, the amount of the conducta robbery and the money stolen from the British Legation.

You will also require that the Commissioners shall have the power of reducing by one-half, or in any less proportion, the duties now levied at those ports.

If these terms are not complied with, you will leave Mexico, with all the members of your Mission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 16.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 21, 1861.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 24th June, and its several inclosures, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government must insist on the restoration of

the 660,000 dollars stolen from Her Majesty's Legation, and that if that money is not restored, friendly relations between the two Governments cannot be maintained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 17.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received August 29.)

My Lord,

Mexico, July 11, 1861.

BY the inclosed extract from this day's "Mexican Extraordinary" your Lordship will perceive that another British subject has been murdered, under circumstances of peculiar atrocity.

The deceased's nephew, after searching in vain throughout the village of Tacubaya for some sort of legal authority to take a deposition on the spot, and perform the usual formalities necessary in such a case, was obliged to have the body removed into this city, when he reported to the British Consul what had taken place, requesting him to acquaint the authorities therewith in order that some steps might be taken for the apprehension of the offenders.

Mr. Glennie had considerable difficulty in overcoming the apathy of the officials, both military and civil, for murder has now become a matter of such everyday occurrence that it excites little or no attention; at length, however, he succeeded, and, the usual forms having been gone through, the body was next day interred—Mr. Walsham, Mr. Glennie, and a numerous body of British residents following it to the grave.

On becoming aware of what had occurred, I addressed, in the absence of any Minister for Foreign Affairs, a note to the Official Mayor of that Department, copy of which I have herewith the honour to inclose, together with a translation of his reply thereto, by which your Lordship will perceive that they were shamed into affording some protection to a place that ought never to have been left defenceless, and also that they promised to take measures for detecting the authors of this atrocious crime.

It is impossible to give your Lordship an idea of the state of anarchy and disorder into which this country is plunged under the misrule of this incompetent Government. The high roads all over the Republic are swarming with robbers, and murders are constantly committed in the most frequented streets of the capital, without the culprits ever being, in any one instance, either captured or punished.

I shall spare no effort to ascertain who were poor Beale's assailants; but, if I even succeed, there is not a chance of their being brought to justice, for crime is now triumphant, and no Judge would dare, under existing circumstances, to vindicate the law, which, in matters of criminal jurisdiction, has become a dead letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Extract from the "Mexican Extraordinary" of July 11, 1861.

NEWS TOPICS.—THE daily events of Mexico have become so alike that one is induced to ask, on getting up in the morning, "Who has been robbed?" "Who has been murdered?"

Since our last publication the event that has caused most sensation has been the murder of Mr. H. M. Beale, one of the very oldest British residents of Mexico, at his residence at the village of Naples. The news of this melancholy event reached here early on the morning of the 7th, and caused that degree of horror and alarm (not surprise) which similar events are likely to create amongst people who exist in a state of anxiety for their own lives and property.

The fact of this murder are as follows:—About 11 o'clock on the night of the 6th a force of some twenty-five or more men on horseback made their appearance in the village of Naples. They were well armed, and came in with a trumpet sounding. Soon after entering the place—which by the way is an embryo village of five or six houses—they made a descent upon the house of Mr. Beale, which is the principal one, and commenced to fire at the windows and doors. All the inmates of the house appear to have been in bed. Mr. Beale was awakened, and it is believed was wounded by the first discharge. He at once got up, and rushing to the room of an old lady (Mrs. Wylie)

who was stopping with him, took her to the roof of the house for safety. He then descended to the lower floor, and, being unarmed, spoke with the assailants, who had then broken into the house, and offered them the liberty to take what they might wish, supposing, as he had a right to do, that he could have no mortal enemies, and that their object was merely to rob.

In reply to his offer and assurance that he had no arms, he was told that they only sought his life "as a foreigner," their mission being to kill foreigners, and not to rob. This declaration was followed by some remonstrance on his part, when he was struck upon the head with a sword, and the work of assassination commenced, amid the most frightful oaths, and cries of "Death to foreigners!"

At the time of the attack there was another foreigner in the house, but he made his escape from a window, and fled to Tacubaya, where he gave notice to a friend of Mr. Beale (Mr. Bueron), who proceeded to Naples. When he arrived he found the place deserted by the murderers, and poor Beale quite dead. The body was brought to this city the same day, and examined by physicians named for the purpose by the Government. The wounds were numerous, made by fire-arms, swords, knives, &c. The head was laid open in two places, and disfigured by bruises, cuts, and gun-shot wounds, in the most horrible manner. In the breast were four wounds, two by fire-arms, and two by knives or swords. Both arms had wounds, and two deep incisions, apparently made by sword thrusts, were found in the lower part of the body. The corpse altogether presented a most shocking spectacle, not that alone of the victim of murderers, but of cowardly fiends who had wreaked upon it their most envenomed hatred. The funeral of Mr. Beale took place the day following, and, notwithstanding a drenching rain, the attendance was numerous.

The victim of this atrocity was a British subject of many years' residence in this country, who had always been noted for his pacific and inoffensive character. He had never taken any part in the politics of the country, and it is not known that he ever so much as expressed an opinion in favour of one party or the other. When warned a few days before his death of the existence of danger, he laughed at the idea, and urged his entire neutrality as a guarantee that no one would molest him. He was a hard-working man, and the new village where he resided owed its name and existence to his untiring industry and enterprise. He was a charitable man, as is well known by everybody, for, although unmarried, he had a considerable family made up of poor orphan children, who were fed, clothed, and cared for through his industry. His last act of kindness to Mrs. Wylie proves the true character of the deceased more than anything else. His first thought was to save the aged and infirm, and then go to face the danger.

The death of this unfortunate man has, with reason, created a deep feeling of alarm amongst the foreign residents of this place, who cannot longer look upon their situation but as precarious in the extreme. Had many others fallen as Mr. Beale has fallen, there might have been some explanation of the act—that they had been partisans, meddlers with the affairs of the country, or some of the many base reasons which have been advanced to palliate the murder of others of our countrymen. But here nothing of the kind can be advanced. Mr. Beale was "a foreigner" (a British subject), and for being such has been murdered. The fact cannot be changed. We have not only the testimony of a child who witnessed the murder of Mr. Beale, and heard the threats of the assassins, but we have the fact that the houses of other foreigners in the same place were broken into, inquiries made for the owners, and, when they were found absent, the repetition of the same cries of "Death to foreigners!" and threats to come back and murder them also. It was providential that no others shared the fate of Mr. Beale.

The authors of this atrocity are supposed to be of the Clergy forces scattered through the Valley. This is natural to suppose, although the fact will probably never be proved. It matters little, however, of what force or party they are. It is alarming enough to know they have murdered one of our countrymen, and have threatened to serve all of us in the same way, and that they are still at large to do as they please.

Nothing has been done, as far as we can learn, to bring the criminals to justice, and we fear that it will be the fate of this case to pass like those of Staines, Gibson, Duval, Egerton, Bodmer, and others—one wail of horror, a home and hearth desolated, one or two formal stereotyped protests, and eternal silence. Surely we are an abandoned people. But the most terrible part of our abandonment is the anxiety—which no foreigner can free himself of—as to who may be the next victim.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

*Sir C. Wyke to Señor Magarola.**Mexico, July 8, 1861.*

Sir,

I YESTERDAY learnt with feelings of horror and indignation, which I will not attempt to describe, the barbarous murder of a British subject named Beale, at a farm called "Napoles," by a party of thirty or forty men, who after destroying their victim left the house without removing a single article from it, thereby proving that their sole motive was vengeance against a man universally known as kind-hearted and inoffensive, and who had never taken any part in the dissensions which distract this unfortunate country.

His son-in-law, who lives in Tacubaya, on hearing what had occurred searched in vain throughout the village for some legal authority to proceed to the spot with him in order to verify the facts and draw up a *procès-verbal* duly proving the crime, and the circumstances under which it had been committed. Failing in his object, he next applied to the British Consul in this city, who on addressing the authorities here was informed that the corpse must be brought into Mexico, as there was no person competent in Tacubaya to perform the legal formalities necessary to be fulfilled in such a case as this.

It is perfectly incredible that the Government should thus leave a place like Tacubaya, within three miles of the capital, inhabited by thousands of people, and containing much valuable property, totally destitute of any authority whatever, either civil or military, to protect the lives of those who have every right to claim the protection of a Government which is bound to watch over them.

In bringing this dreadful case to your notice I must request that you will immediately inform me what steps have been taken for the detection and punishment of the assassins who have committed this murder, and let me know at the same time what measures have been adopted to prevent outrages of a similar nature being again perpetrated in a place close to the gates of the capital.

If I had supposed Tacubaya had been thus left defenceless I should have warned all my countrymen to leave a place which everybody thought was under the direct and immediate protection of the General commanding the district. In conclusion I must again urge on you the necessity of giving me an immediate reply to the demand I now address you, not only for the sake of justice to the decased, but also for the due protection of those British subjects still resident in the actual vicinity of the city.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Señor Magarola to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Sir,

National Palace, Mexico, July 8, 1861.

BEFORE receiving your Excellency's note of this day's date the Government had been informed of the assassination committed on the person of the English subject Beale, and had in consequence ordered all the necessary measures for the investigation of the deed and the prosecution of the culprits so soon as they should be arrested.

The Government itself, full of indignation at this crime, desires that its authors should suffer condign punishment, and has again given orders to the General-in-chief and to the Governor of the district to take active measures, and to inform this Department of what has already been done, and what it is their intention to do, not only in this case, but also about the matter which your Excellency was pleased to lay before me.

As soon as the information referred to has been received in this Department I shall have the pleasure to transmit it to your Excellency, assuring you in the meanwhile that this Government will spare no effort, as far as it may be in its power, to give its protection to the life and property of the inhabitants of the district.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) LUCAS DE PALACIO Y MAGAROLA.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received August 29.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, July 26, 1861.

AFTER a perusal of the despatches I had the honour of addressing to you by the last mail, your Lordship will, probably, not be surprised to learn that this Government, encouraged by the apparent impunity with which they stopped payment of the assignments stipulated for by the agreements entered into with Captains Dunlop and Aldham, should have gone a step further, and suspended all payments assigned to their foreign claimants by the British, French, and Spanish Conventions.

This scandalous and dishonest act was announced in a new financial law issued by Congress on the 17th instant, and published in newspapers and placards in the form of a Decree, by the President's order, on the 19th.

In this document, of which I have now the honour to inclose a translation, your Lordship will perceive by Article 1 that all payments, including the assignments destined for the London bondholders and the foreign Conventions, are suspended for the space of two years. By Article 13 the "contra registro," or duty on consumption of all foreign merchandize, is doubled within the Federal district during the Government's good pleasure, to enable them by these means, and those procured by a tax on tobacco, to pay off in preference the debts contracted since the 29th of May last, as well as those they may incur for the expenses entailed on them in maintaining the public peace, or, in other words, carrying on the civil war.

These are the two Articles of the Decree that directly affect foreigners: the others bear more upon native interests, such as Articles 12 and 13, by which the Government is authorized to place an impost on tobacco, and to augment by 50 per cent., up to the end of December next, the excise duties on national products within the Federal district, comprising an area of eighty-nine square miles, with a population of about 300,000 souls.

The "Junta," mentioned in Article 6, is what we should term a Special Finance Committee appointed for the reduction of the national debt by means of funds accruing from property formerly belonging to the Church and other corporate bodies. Two members of the Junta are to be named from the different creditors of the State; but those foreigners to whom such an appointment has been offered have refused it with indignation.

Such is the scheme by which this Government propose to free themselves from their engagements towards foreign Powers, and to procure money sufficient to enable them to go on in the old scrambling disorderly way, living from hand to mouth by augmenting duties, levying contributions, and repudiating engagements which they are bound in honour to fulfil.

The same evening that this Decree was published, I wrote a note to Señor Zamacona, Minister for Foreign Affairs, asking him whether it was really authentic, as I could not bring myself to believe that the Government actually meant thus to set at defiance an international obligation such as the British Convention, which could not be put on one side at the will of one of the Contracting Parties, unless with the sanction of the other, and this too without in any way announcing their intention of doing so to this Legation.

In his reply of the 21st, herewith inclosed, your Lordship will perceive the very lame attempt he makes to account for this important omission, for even the visit to which he refers was made twenty-four hours after the Decree had been placarded in the streets of this capital.

The second note dated the 21st, translation of which I likewise inclose, is the one announcing the publication of the Decree, to which he alludes in the first note as having been already sent to me, but which in reality only reached me an hour and a-half after I had received the other. My letter of the 22nd refutes the arguments he uses to justify the Decree, and contradicts the insinuation that I must have known of its being about to be issued. My note of the 23rd is an answer to the official announcement of the Decree, by which I solemnly protest against it, and warn Señor Zamacona that unless this obnoxious measure is withdrawn in forty-eight hours I shall suspend all further official intercourse with the Mexican Government until I receive instructions from Her Majesty's Government with reference to this matter.

The full forty-eight hours having expired without my having received any answer whatever to this communication, I again addressed him on the evening of the 25th, formally suspending my relations as I had threatened to do. An hour later I received two notes from his Excellency, by the former of which he endeavours to make out that

there is no necessity whatever for the step I have taken, and requests me, therefore, still to maintain my official relations with this Government; this was in answer to my note written on the evening of the 23rd, and the latter, in reply to the one of the 25th, complains that the full term of forty-eight hours was not accorded, for my note, which was written the day before at 5 o'clock, had not been received by him until 7 P.M. As in the first of these Señor Zamacona states the impossibility, according to his view of the case, of withdrawing the Decree, I could not, after the announcement of my determination, reply to him officially, and I therefore answered some incorrect statements contained in his note by a private letter, copy of which I have the honour likewise to inclose.

It is very evident by the tone of these communications that they are now alarmed at the turn affairs have taken; but their wretched vanity and pride will prevent them from taking any step to remedy the evil, and therefore I see no chance of the measure being withdrawn.

Your Lordship will thus perceive that it has become impossible any longer to suffer the illegal and outrageous proceedings of a Government which neither respects itself nor its most solemn engagements.

It is only by adopting coercive measures that we can force them to give up a system of violent spoliation which in reality is nearly as prejudicial to themselves as to those foreigners who are so unfortunate as to have brought their capital and industry to a country so misgoverned.

On the publication of the Decree, the British merchants resident here addressed a letter to me, praying for my interference in their behalf, against the increase of duties on all foreign articles of consumption thus imposed on them. I inclose copy of their letter, together with my reply thereto.

As long as the present dishonest and incapable Administration remains in power, things will go from bad to worse; but with a Government formed of respectable men, could such be found, the resources of the country are so great that it might easily fulfil its engagements, and increase threefold the amount of its exportations, not only of the precious metals, but of those productions for which they receive British manufactured goods in exchange. Mexico furnishes two-thirds of the silver now in circulation, and might be made one of the richest and most prosperous countries of the world; so that it becomes the interest of Great Britain to put a stop, by force if necessary, to its present state of anarchy, and insist on its Government paying what it owes to British subjects. The Moderate party, which is now cowed by the two opposing ultra factions in the State, would then raise its head, and encouraged by adopting the measures I pointed out as necessary in my last month's correspondence, probably establish by themselves such a Government as we require; but without this moral support they fear to move, and hence the continuation of the deplorable state of things now existing.

M. de Saligny, the French Minister here, has acted in concert with me throughout this affair, and although the interests he has to defend are trifling in comparison to ours, he has used even stronger language than I have, for he does not merely suspend, but actually breaks off all official intercourse with the Government, unless they rescind the Decree of the 17th instant.

I have not the least hesitation in saying that unless Her Majesty's Government take the most decided measures for proving to this Government that it cannot thus act with impunity, British subjects resident here will remain defenceless, and their property be at the mercy of a set of men who disregard their most solemn engagements, whenever such interfere with either their caprice or rapacity.

From the tone of their notes to me anybody not on the spot would imagine that dire necessity had alone compelled them thus to act, whereas in reality 6,000,000 of hard dollars have actually passed through their hands within the last half-year, to say nothing of the immense amount of church property in this district alone which has been dissipated in a manner, according to public rumour, utterly discreditable to the members of the Government.

Awaiting your Lordship's instructions, I have, &c.

P.S.—I have herewith the honour to transmit translation of another long private note from Señor Zamacona, containing only a repetition of the same sort of arguments he has used before. When I reply to it I shall merely acknowledge reception of a communication which in no way really affects the question at issue.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Decree.

(Translation.)

THE citizen Benito Juarez, Constitutional President of the United Mexican States, to the inhabitants, know ye :

That the Sovereign Congress of the Union has deemed it well to address me the following Decree :—

Article 1. From the date of this law, the Government of the Union will recover the complete product of the Federal revenues, deducting from them only the expenses of the administration of collecting, and all payments are suspended for two years, including the assignments for the loan made in London and for the foreign Conventions.

Art. 2. The maritime Custom-houses and all the other collecting offices of the Federal revenues will surrender all their products into the general Treasury, being exclusively subject to the orders of the Ministry of Finances. On the 15th and on the last day of each month they will forward to the Ministry a statement of their receipts and disbursements.

Art. 3. Within the term of one month the Government will form and publish an economical estimate of all public expenses, based on the estimate of the 31st December, 1855, conveniently reduced. The Government is to subject itself to this economical estimate from the day of its publication, and Congress only has the faculty of making changes afterwards.

Art. 4. The payments in this estimate are to be made in the following manner :—

1. The armed force in campaign and in garrison. The material of war. The invalids and disabled soldiers. These payments are to be made complete, but no surplus can be admitted.

2. The civil list in active service and the military list not in service. These payments, if under 300 dollars, are to be made complete; if above 300 dollars they are to be made in strict and equal proportion.

3. The classes pensioned by the nation are to be paid in strict and equal proportion, if the classes above mentioned have been paid before, as is ordered by the Decree.

Art. 5. If an order, not included in the Estimates, is sent to the General Treasury by Government, an observation must be made by a communication of the Government; if repeated, the Treasurer is to communicate it immediately to Congress. If the Treasurer does not make the observations here mentioned, he is to be destituted immediately.

Art. 6. A superior Committee of Hacienda is instituted, composed of one President and four members named by Government, with the sanction of Congress. Two of them, at least, must be creditors of the nation.

Art. 7. The attributes of the Junta are the following :—

1. To pay the loan made in London and the foreign Conventions;
2. To pay the creditors not comprised in the Law of the 30th November, 1850;
3. To pay legal and posterior credits against the nation up to the 30th June of this year, including those comprised in the Law of the 17th December, 1860;
4. To receive the payment of what is due to the nation, if it be unknown to the collecting offices;

5. To administer and sell the nationalized clergy property, and to execute all the attributes of the law of disamortization and nationalization.

6. To make arrangements, with the sanction of Government, with all the persons interested in, or that have any business relative to, nationalized property;

7. To distribute all the funds collected amongst the creditors of the nation. The product of the suppressed convents is to be applied to the creditors of the conducta of Laguna Seca, and after covering the estimates of the nunneries, the remainder is to be distributed to the creditors in the foreign Conventions.

Art. 8. In order that the Junta may be able to fill the attributes conferred upon it by Government, the following is assigned to it :—

All the "pagarés" existing in the special disamortization office; the product of all pending redemption; the capitals not redeemed belonging to the nation, the buildings of the suppressed convents, the lands and all existing materials. In the States and Territories all the lands, convents, and buildings comprised in the law of nationalization, and all the products, except the 20 per cent. belonging to the same States and Territories. The buildings and capitals expressly excepted by Government are not comprised in this Article.

Art. 9. All this property will form a fund distinct of public credit; the employers in the district, the chiefs ("gefes superiores") of the Finance Department in the States and Territories are to forward immediately to the Junta the titles, deeds, notices, and corresponding documents.

Art. 10. In the special law published for the conversion of public debt, the part to be delivered by the States is to be fixed and regulated.

Art. 11. The Government is authorized to publish a decree taxing tobacco: this tax is to be collected for the Federal Treasury in all the Republic.

Art. 12. The Government is authorized to increase, during the remaining months of this year, the alcabala of one-half per cent. more on national products, excepting the articles of agricultural and manufacturing industry specified in the Decree of the 24th September, 1855.

Art. 13. The duty of "contra-registro" on foreign goods is increased to double in the district; this increase is to be paid as long as the Government may deem it necessary to fulfil the object of the following Article.

Art. 14. With the new product of the alcabala, the "contra-registro" and the tax imposed upon tobacco, the Government will pay with preference all the debts contracted from the 29th of last May, and all those that it may contract for the re-establishment of public tranquillity, leaving extant all the orders that have been given on account of "refacciones" for the payment of the money taken in Laguna Seca.

Art. 15. The Governors of States and the employés of the Collecting Department have no intervention whatever in the Federal revenues.

Art. 16. The Government is authorized to reform and organize within one month all the offices on such a base that their estimates be reduced, and is authorized to increase the salaries of some employés, and to reduce their number.

Given in the Sessions Hall of the Congress of the Union, on the 17th of July, 1861.

(Signed)

GABINO BUSTAMANTE, *Deputy President.*

FRANCISCO CENDEJAS, *Secretary.*

E. ROBLES GIL, *Deputy Secretary.*

For which I order that it be printed, published, circulated, and given due respect.

Given in the National Palace in Mexico, the 17th July, 1861.

(Signed)

BENITO JUAREZ.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Zamacona.

Sir,

Mexico, July 19, 1861.

A PRINTED paper, as strange in compilation as in the nature of its contents, was this day hawked about the principal thoroughfares of the city, and has now, I see, been reprinted in the columns of this evening's "Siglo."

According to the wording of this document, it would appear that Congress has thought fit to make a free gift of other people's property to the Government of the Republic, by suspending for the space of two years the payment of all assignments, as well to the London bondholders as to the parties interested in the foreign Conventions.

Until I hear from you to the contrary, I am bound to consider this announcement in the light of a falsehood; for I cannot bring myself to believe that a Government which respects itself could sanction a gross violation of its most sacred obligations to other nations, and then proclaim the fact of their having done so in a manner which, if possible, aggravates the offence.

That the Representatives of those nations who are thus slighted and injured should be allowed to learn, in the first instance, by handbills circulated in the streets, that you have repudiated your engagements, is as unaccountable as the policy which could dictate a measure alike fatal to the character and credit of the Republic.

I will not dwell on other obnoxious paragraphs of this publication, as at present I cannot believe it to be authentic; for when your Excellency did me the honour of calling on me to-day, you in no way alluded to a subject which would otherwise surely have formed the chief topic of your conversation.

Awaiting a reply at your earliest convenience, I avail, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Señor Zamacona to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Mexico, July 21, 1861.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has had the honour of receiving from his Excellency Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, the note in which his Excellency requests to be informed whether the Decree of the Federal Congress providing for a total suspension of payments, not excepting those of the London bondholders and Diplomatic Conventions, is or is not authentic.

His Excellency's request might have been looked upon as anticipated by the explanation the Undersigned had the pleasure of making yesterday at the Legation only a few minutes after the note, to which this is a reply, had been sent to the Foreign Office, indeed while it was yet on its way there; but the private character of that explanation renders it incumbent upon the Undersigned to recapitulate a portion of it in the present communication.

In the first place, he begs to assure Sir Charles Wyke that so soon as the Decree of yesterday was made known to him through the Department of Finance, he proposed to bring it at once to the cognizance of his Excellency, though anxious that this step should be preceded by a visit, at which it was the intention of the Undersigned to give Sir Charles Wyke a fuller and more detailed explanation of the Decree in question, its purport, and probable results, than was compatible with the limits of an official note. In the meanwhile, however, the Decree was duly and formally published and printed in the daily newspapers, and this will account for his Excellency the British Minister having seen it before he received either an explanatory communication or visit from the Undersigned.

Sir Charles Wyke will now allow the Undersigned the liberty of stating that he does not consider his Excellency has formed a correct estimate of this Decree, when he says the Congress therein makes a free gift to Government of other people's property. Her Majesty's worthy Representative likewise goes on to qualify the act of Congress as a total suspension of payments for the space of two years; still it will not escape his keen judgment that the application of the term "free gift" to what is merely the act of ratifying certain obligations, and specifying the mode of fulfilling the same, amounts to a misnomer.

Neither can the Undersigned agree with Sir Charles Wyke in his opinion that the Decree in question is a violation of Mexico's most sacred obligations towards other nations. Such a phrase would imply the idea of a voluntary and deliberate act; whereas the Republic, in suspending the payments due to the Diplomatic Conventions, yielded not to the dictates of its own free will, but solely to the force of circumstances, which have rendered it morally and physically impossible for the nation to continue making those payments which have hitherto been made by means of the most strenuous exertions. When, then, such efforts have been unavailing, the Government may be permitted to say so without any want of respect either for itself or for those nations with whom they may have engagements.

To every obligation there is attached the tacit condition of possible fulfilment or non-fulfilment, and nobody has ever been judged faithless to his engagements for having, when compelled to suspend payment, stated the simple fact of such engagements being incompatible with possibility.

Of such a nature is the statement contained in the Decree that has now passed Congress, and Her Majesty's Minister should not be astonished that it did so pass Congress, or that it was afterwards published without the previous consent of the Diplomatic Representatives in their character of protectors to foreign creditors, for it must be treated of as the mere declaration of a simple fact, in no way tending to the modification or prejudice of the interests connected with the public debt.

It will not have escaped the clear judgment of Sir Charles Wyke, acquainted as is his Excellency with the actual situation of the Republic, that the suspension of payments which has lately been decreed, which only expresses what has long been the public feeling, and has formed the subject of confidential conversations with some members of the Corps Diplomatique, as well also as with some of those most interested in the foreign debt, has been brought about by an imperious necessity, which did not admit of any preliminary arrangement or adjustment. The Government had to choose between two evils—either to respond to public opinion by adopting the only existing means of preserving order and reorganizing the whole administrative system, or to look quietly on and leave society to become an easy prey to the prevailing anarchy.

Government, considering the preservation of order to be its first duty, and believing that for the positive good of all who had interests at stake in the country, some one plan should be undertaken which would tend to consolidate those same interests, presumed they might count, to a certain extent, upon the assent of the creditors.

Sir Charles Wyke, then, will thus understand why the Undersigned, holding as he does these opinions, can neither look upon the Decree, originating this note, as repudiating national engagements, nor as prejudicial to the good fame and credit of the Republic.

In order the better to understand the true force and purport of the Decree, the Undersigned would beg to refer Her Majesty's Minister to the note which has been addressed to the Legation for the purpose of announcing to his Excellency the Act of Congress; and if Sir Charles Wyke considers that in the visit which the Undersigned had the honour of paying yesterday at the Mission, he was only performing such an act of courtesy as should always precede any official or confidential conferences upon matters of business, his Excellency will cease to wonder at the absence of special reference to the subject of this communication during the conversation which then took place:

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

MANUEL DE ZAMACONA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 18.

Señor Zamacona to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Mexico, July 21, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to inform his Excellency Sir C. Lennox Wyke, &c., that the Decree which forms the inclosure to this note has passed the Federal Congress of the Republic, and that the Undersigned brings it to the cognizance of his Excellency on account of its connection with the Diplomatic Conventions and their payments.

From the known ability and sound sense of Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, the Mexican Government are led to hope that his Excellency, so far from seeing in the above Decree any cause for alarm on account of those interests which are under the protection of the British Legation, will, on the contrary, perceive in this act of the Legislature a proof that the Republic is anxious to arrive at an estimate of their resources; to organize those resources in the most profitable manner; to cut at the root of such abuses as have hitherto brought censure upon the Government, the Supreme Power being the first to submit to the restrictions and other conditions necessary for this object; and, at the same time, to place the engagements and obligations of the nation upon such a footing as will ensure them in future a sure and lasting inviolability.

To fulfil faithfully their international compacts, the Mexican Government have made almost superhuman efforts, and can show results of no ordinary kind, such, for instance, as the present balance-sheet of the Mexican debt, whereby it is seen that no very notable change has been brought about therein by the continuous state of revolution. During this crisis, on the contrary, the position of foreign creditors has improved; in the midst of its greatest embarrassments the nation has gone even so far as to increase the rate of interest for paying off the public debt, and has thus deprived itself of the very means which were at its disposal for terminating the civil war; in other words, the nation has paid its creditors their gold with the blood of its citizens.

Since the revolution began, the Republic has been thirsting after peace, order, and security; yet the Government, fully convinced though they were of being able to right themselves if only they could count upon any means that would really admit of action, hesitated long before laying hands upon the funds destined for the payment of their foreign debt. So great, indeed, was their respect for these funds, that they preferred to sacrifice their obligations to Mexicans, to trample under foot the most cherished principles of their country, nay, even to imprison persons of the highest respectability, in order to obtain resources from the sums paid for their release, rather than touch a cent of the assignments destined for the Diplomatic Conventions and the London debt.

So hateful an expedient, although it has served to prove their good faith towards other nations, has not been and never can be efficacious, so that the Government has now to start afresh, as they should do, upon different principles, and with the fixed purpose of thoroughly reorganizing their plan of administration, and of having recourse, not to temporary expedients, but such a system of taxation as from its nature will while adding fresh vigour to Government, abolish once and for all the old system of forced imposts.

To carry out this principle, the Republic has need of its entire revenue and of conscientious and practical persons to administer the same, and this is the intention of the law which the Undersigned has the honour of placing in Sir Charles Wyke's hands.

The present Government of the Republic has to meet, on the one hand, the demands of society and civilization for order, and guarantees, on the other, those of the foreign creditors for nearly the entirety of the public revenue. So circumstanced, no Government could hesitate as to the course to be taken.

The nation, then, has yielded to the cry of society and civilization, has given way before a pressure too heavy for it to bear, but it has done so merely in order to recover strength and then return to the charge.

The Government of the Undersigned originated the measures contained in the inclosed Decree, and possibly they are the first rulers in the country who have religiously and honestly undertaken seriously to consider the nature of their obligations, and to discover the best means of meeting them.

It is impossible for Mexico to attempt any administrative reform or the re-establishment of peace and order, if she has to support the burden of the national debt.

To enable her, however, to remove whatever has led to those numerous questions which have so incessantly occupied the attention of foreign Representatives and the Finance Department, and to do away with the system of forced imports, to enable her to free herself from the necessity of breaking through her own liberal principles and overtaxing foreign imports; to enable her, in short, to procure some portion of the money now paid by the Maritime Custom-houses towards the extinction of the debt, it is necessary she should be allowed a short respite wherein to recover herself, as well as the full use for a few days of her entire revenue. In that case, by proper management and economy, public order and tranquillity would be re-established, and the revenue of the country, with the exception of what was absolutely requisite for the proper protection of society, set apart to meet the payment of arrears.

The Government of the Undersigned considers that a debtor, so long as he is actuated by honourable feelings and a full determination to carry out his engagements, does not forfeit his dignity in presenting himself to his creditor and frankly confessing he is, though temporarily so, unable to pay his debts; and the sole object which that Government now has in view, is to prove to the world that they are really and truly resolved upon attempting administrative reforms in the country, as the only means left likely to produce any amelioration in its political condition. They perfectly understand that they have to struggle against the unfavourable impression caused by the abuses and irregularities allowed in former times, yet it does not escape them that they have inherited this fresh difficulty in addition to the others which they have now to combat, though they are not ashamed of such difficulties, inasmuch as this is no exceptional case in the annals of Mexican revolutions, nor is it the work of the present Administration.

A nation, like an individual, has the right to ask to be judged by its own acts, and not according to preconceived prejudices or partial comparisons.

When the President of the Republic convened the Members of the present Government they each and all, with heartfelt sincerity and honesty of purpose, hailed the idea of at once fearlessly grappling with the difficulties of the problem upon the solution of which depended the great question of reform. They saw that the nation lacked not the material elements of such a work, but merely their proper organization. Nor were moral elements wanting; for were there not proofs to the contrary in the general longing for the time when, upon the spurious and self-interested promises of a frivolous and corrupt minority, there should be built up lasting institutions, under whose protecting influence Mexicans and foreigners alike would deem their honour, lives, and property secure? The Government saw that the nation was weary of its state of anarchy, that it cursed the abuses and the recklessness which had brought upon it discredit and ruin; they saw, in fact, that the majority in the country asked but honesty of purpose from the ruling power, and they did not hesitate to consecrate their efforts exclusively to respond to so just a call.

The Cabinet of which the Undersigned is a member takes pride in its firmness of purpose, and considers that it merits the sympathy and co-operation of foreign Representatives, whose presence in the Republic is not solely for the protection of specified interests or nationalities, since their mission is equally one dedicated to the cause of humanity and civilization.

Sad indeed would it be if history had one day to recount how that this country, after the most trying vicissitudes, came to be ruled over by men who, without any supernatural

gifts and animated solely by their patriotism and their experience, shrunk not from making one final effort,—an effort such as never yet had been made,—to establish in Mexico the rule of reason and morality, yet that this effort was shipwrecked on the prejudices and scepticism of the most enlightened nations of the world in respect to Mexico's future and Mexico's capabilities for reform.

Every impartial person must look upon what is now passing as a proof of the energy and loyalty which Mexico is displaying in her endeavours to attain that position which reason and prudence dictates. Government, at the outset, has procured and dedicated to the interests of the public debt all the national property. They have initiated a system of economy which is already in operation; and as a result thereof, have imposed upon themselves and their subordinates such restrictions and self-denial as have never yet been imposed by any former Administration. They have further been occupied with the details of a programme based upon those principles of economy which experience has proved to be necessary. Great progress, too, has been made towards establishing public order and tranquillity by the steps taken by Government, for tracing out clearly the position which the States hold in respect to the supreme Federal Power. Moreover, the Departments of State now are denied to those who would hold office simply to speculate in the gains of the reigning disorder and confusion, and the present rulers of Mexico would sooner sink under their difficulties than yield an inch of the ground on which they have taken their stand in defence of reform and morality.

All those who have interests in the country, all indeed who would see civilization on the increase, should aid the Government in attaining the objects they have in view, instead of throwing obstacles in their way. The great European Powers are extending their sympathies at the present hour to those countries who are striving to join the rest of mankind in the great work of civilization, and Mexico would fain hope that she is not alone to be excepted.

The very creditors of Mexico themselves should, the Undersigned thinks, in their own interests, feel that great encouragement is given to them at the present moment; for it is not the Republic alone that is now concerned in the proper regulation of the public debt under surer guarantees, and in the necessity of consolidating the same. The creditors of the nation have even a higher interest at stake, inasmuch as by no other means than those already mentioned can they expect to obtain greater advantages than those they now possess, notwithstanding that they have gradually acquired for themselves almost the entire revenue of the country.

This very circumstance is regarded, and with reason, as a proof of non-stability, while it equally produces distrust in people's minds, a state of things no less prejudicial to the Republic generally than to its creditors.

Upon this point natural instinct cannot be deceived. As matters now stand, whether in respect to the country or the creditors, it might be possible that the drain upon the revenue could be continued for the space of a few months, but it would be possible only at the price of certain ruin, alike to the country and the creditors.

Had the Government hesitated to adopt the measures for a radical financial reform, to which sufficient reference has already been made, they would have been either compelled, against their principles and inclination, to impose fresh taxes upon foreign importations, or quietly to submit to every interest connected with social order being swallowed up in the flood of anarchy—an idea too horrible to be thought of.

To avoid either of these extremes the Government, guided by their conscience and feelings of patriotism, suggested the plan contained in the inclosed Decree. If, as it is to be hoped, it should meet with support and sympathy from other nations, Mexico would be able to raise her voice and proclaim aloud that she had entered upon the one road that could lead to her salvation. Should it be otherwise, the nation must perish, and with her all those interests which are so closely connected with her future prosperity. Be this as it may, the Government that in these stormy days rules over the destiny of Mexico, will have had the honour and glory of initiating and doing battle for the only means left that could save their country.

The Undersigned would feel obliged to Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary if his Excellency would transmit a copy of this note to his Government, and avail himself, &c.

(Signed) MANUEL DE ZAMACONA.

Inclosure 5 in No. 18.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Zamacona.

Sir,

Mexico, July 22, 1851.

IN reply to your communication bearing yesterday's date, which I have just had the honour to receive, I will endeavour to answer seriatim the objections you have to offer to the statements contained in my note to your Excellency of the 19th instant.

You state the reasons why the Financial Decree was not sooner communicated to this Legation, and say that you were anxious personally to explain to me the motives which had originated it; but what I complained of was, that it should have passed into a law without the intention even of carrying it into execution ever having been announced to me.

When two parties bind themselves to perform certain stipulations, neither of them has the right to free himself from such obligations without having first of all obtained the consent of the other contracting party. With regard to what you say about the impropriety of my calling this act of the Congress a giving away of other people's property without their consent, permit me to observe that I am perfectly justified in making that assertion, for in matters of this nature time is often equivalent to money, and the arbitrary act of stopping all payments for the space of two years is depriving the parties interested of their money for that space of time, which is a dead loss of so much value to them.

The imperious necessity which you urge as an excuse for the act cannot in any way justify the manner in which you have made yourselves sole judges of that necessity, without first of all urging it on the forbearance of your creditors, in order to obtain their consent to what you were about to do.

A starving man may justify, in his own eyes, the fact of his stealing a loaf on the ground that imperious necessity impelled him thereto; but such an argument cannot, in a moral point of view, justify his violation of the law, which remains as positive, apart from all sentimentality, as if the crime had not had an excuse. If he was actually starving, he should have first asked the baker to assuage his hunger, but doing so of his own free-will, without permission, is acting exactly as the Mexican Government has done towards its creditors on the present occasion.

Although, as your Excellency truly observes, the law just published does not certainly affect the rights of the parties interested, yet it does most positively touch their material interests by depriving them of payments on which they had counted to fulfil their other engagements.

With regard to the hope of immediate relief which you seem to entertain from the operation of this measure, I am convinced that it will, on the contrary, greatly aggravate the actual difficulties under which you are now labouring, and that for reasons so evident that I will not now advance them.

I am not aware that the project of this law was shown to other Diplomatic Agents, but I certainly never heard of it before under its present form, and, therefore, as far as I am concerned, the case stands exactly as I have stated it.

With regard to the light in which your Excellency views this question, as expressed in your above-named note, you will, I am sure, excuse me for stating that it cannot be treated of partially, without also taking into consideration the opinions of those who directly suffer from the practical operation of such ideas as emanating from yourself and the other members of the Government who submitted the project to the Congress.

With respect to what you mention about a note addressed by your Excellency to this Legation with reference to this matter, I must inform you that it has never reached me, and that, therefore, I had a full right to complain, as I did in my communication to you of the 19th, of having first of all heard of this extraordinary measure of the Government by seeing it in printed bills placarded through the public streets of the capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing lines, the note of your Excellency alluded to above as missing, has been put into my hands, it having reached this Legation an hour and a-half later than the one to which this is a reply.

C. L. W.

Inclosure 6 in No. 18.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Zamacona.

Sir,

Mexico, July 23, 1861.

YOUR Excellency's note of the 21st instant reached me yesterday afternoon, by which I learn that the Decree forming its inclosure has passed the Federal Congress of the Republic, and that you forward it to me as directly bearing on the stipulations of the Diplomatic Convention for the payment of British claims concluded between Great Britain and Mexico in the year 1851.

I have already so fully explained to you in my notes of the 19th and 22nd of this month what I think of this Decree, and the manner in which it has been issued, that any further observations of mine with reference to it would only be superfluous, and prolong a correspondence which should never have been called for at all.

As to the appeal you make to the indulgence and forbearance of Her Majesty's Government, in order to obtain their sanction to a measure which is of itself sufficient for ever to deprive you of their confidence, I need only remind you that such indulgence has already been too far abused by the utter failure of all your engagements in the affairs of the Calle de Capuchinas and the Laguna Seca for it to be again extended to those who, instead of feeling grateful for it, only seem to count on its exercise in order to free themselves from every obligation, however binding it may be.

Apart from these considerations, however, the carrying out of this financial law, so far from benefiting the nation, will only plunge it into tenfold greater difficulties by largely increasing its obligations to its creditors, and at the same time striking at the root of its credit and commercial prosperity.

That which is in itself wrong can never come right, for it is a well-known axiom that spoliation as a source of revenue soon exhausts itself.

It is not by such means that the resources of the country can be augmented, but by a determination to make every sacrifice, and incur every privation, with a view of maintaining your honour and fulfilling your engagements. This determination once adopted and manfully put into practice would at once inspire confidence and rally round you those whose sympathies you now appeal to in vain, because they doubt from past experience both your prudence and your sincerity.

In using language thus strong you must not attribute to me a desire to offend, which is indeed far from my intention, but I have a duty to perform both to my own Government and to that to which I am accredited, which impels me fearlessly to tell the truth and warn you against the inevitable consequences of a step alike fatal to your own interests, as well as to those of my countrymen affected by this law.

It now only remains for me to protest most solemnly, as I hereby do, against this Decree, at the same time that I hold the Republic responsible for all and every damage and prejudice caused by it to the interests of those whom I represent in this matter; and further to warn your Excellency that, unless the said Decree is withdrawn within forty-eight hours from this present time, I shall, until I receive fresh instructions, suspend all official intercourse with the Mexican Government, as any longer maintaining such under existing circumstances would be incompatible with the dignity of the nation I have the honour to represent.

In compliance with your request I will transmit a copy of your Excellency's note of the 21st instant to Her Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 18.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Zamacona.

Sir,

Mexico, July 25, 1861, 5 P.M.

THE day before yesterday, at this hour, I had the honour of informing your Excellency that, if the Decree of the 17th instant was not withdrawn within forty-eight hours, I should feel it my duty to suspend all official intercourse with the Mexican Government, until I should receive instructions from Her Britannic Majesty's Government as to the next step to be taken in a matter which not only implies the breach of a solemn international compact, but also carries with it so great a slight as almost to amount to a direct insult to the nation I have the honour to represent.

The term having now expired within which I should have received a reply, and none

having reached me, I take your silence as a refusal of my demand; and I therefore from this time forward suspend all official relations with the Government of this Republic until that of Her Majesty shall adopt such measures as they shall deem necessary under circumstances so unprecedented.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 8 in No. 18.

Señor Zamacona to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Mexico, July 25, 1861.

THE communication which his Excellency Her Britannic Majesty's Minister was pleased, under yesterday's date, to address to the Undersigned upon the subject of the Decree of the Sovereign Congress proclaiming a total suspension of payments, not excepting those of the Diplomatic Conventions and the London debt, has rendered it incumbent upon the Undersigned to make certain explanations, without which it might be supposed that his Government had accepted as irrefutable some of the facts and statements therein adduced by Sir Charles Wyke.

Once and for all, then, the Undersigned rejects the notion entertained by his Excellency in his notes of the 19th and 22nd instants, that the Decree of the 17th implies an act of spoliation.

This act of the Legislature carries with it no legal right whatever to rob foreign creditors of what belongs to them. The nation, in whose House of Representatives the Decree in question was carried with scarcely a dissenting voice, has never sought to disavow the rights which have accrued to others from international compacts. Still she has been forced to declare that, for some time to come, such rights cannot continue to be a drain upon the revenue of the maritime Custom-houses, for that revenue—the only one Government possesses for immediate purposes—does not suffice for the actual exigencies, temporary though they be, of the country and society, and at the same time for the payment of the interest and principal of the public debt. Government have obligations to perform both towards society and their creditors. They cannot perform both at once, and consequently by the Decree which has originated this note, Government have done nothing more than place those obligations in their legitimate order, without attacking or disavowing any of them.

His Excellency Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary, while attempting to clothe the Act of Congress in the garb of spoliation, has in one of his former notes employed a simile, the inaptitude of which is strikingly perceptible. His Excellency compares the Government at this moment to a person who, impelled by hunger, assaults and robs a provision merchant. Now, two ruling principles are implied in such an act, one of aggression, the other of robbery, neither of which can even be assumed in respect to the conduct of Government towards its creditors. Of not a sixpence have these same creditors been deprived; and if one had to employ a simile to qualify the conduct of Government, it would be rather that of a father overwhelmed with debts, who, with only a small sum at his disposal, scarcely sufficient to maintain his children, employed it in the purchase of bread instead of in the payment of his bills. Were Her Britannic Majesty's Representative a member of the family, would his Excellency be eager to qualify his father's conduct by the name of spoliation?

In every-day life one is accustomed to see people who suspend payment owing to pecuniary embarrassments, yet nobody seeks to call them thieves. Now in the Decree, upon which Her Britannic Majesty's Minister passes so severe a sentence, not a single word is there which can give rise to the idea of thieving propensities. Payments, it is true, are stopped, because Government cannot pay out of the funds assigned to it. They are stopped because the nation, to be orderly and at the same time methodical in the accounts of the public debt, wants as soon as possible a Government; yet still, with feelings of loyalty and with a solicitude worthy both of being more justly appreciated, she has given her creditors a two-fold guarantee—firstly, in the plan itself, so complete, so impartial, a plan wherein looms a prospect of solid stability; and, secondly, in the assignment of a special fund of several millions (most of which can shortly be realized), whereby, even during the period of suspension (in their case nominal), the foreign creditors will obtain even better security than what was given them in the maritime Custom-houses.

It is not, M. le Ministre, about sacrifices or money that Mexico is haggling: that which she is defending are the principles of order; that which she is longing for is system

and organization, without which she is lost; and she is searching after prudence and method, so that she may never again be accused of slovenliness and mismanagement by those who regard as a national vice what is but a phenomenon inseparable from a state of revolution.

It is well, too, to state accurately the attitude of Mexico before her creditors, both as it was and is; for it is not such a one as his Excellency Her Majesty's Envoy describes in his last note. To judge therefrom, our Republic has never been aught than an indigent debtor, who from time immemorial has responded with ingratitude and bad faith to the undeniable generosity and indulgence of her creditors.

The Undersigned shuts his eyes purposely to the history of the foreign debt, for neither would he wish to employ the bitter tone of Sir Charles Wyke's note, nor give the slightest indication of Mexico's belonging to the set of faithless debtors who, to avoid payment, dispute the legality of their obligations. Mexico, on the contrary, recognizes in a high degree her engagements, and will abide by them, moreover, without taking exception at the antecedents of the original contract.

But the Undersigned is convinced that, when this correspondence shall have come to light, all who are familiar with the history of our external debt, all who are acquainted with the primary elements of the British Convention, and know how the parties interested therein were allowed the advantages of increased interest in the midst of a ruinous civil war, and in the days of Mexico's hardest struggle, will see something strange in the allusion of his Excellency Her Majesty's Minister to the indulgence of which the foreign creditors were so prodigal, but which the Republic so systematically abused.

Had the demands of the creditors been somewhat fewer, then, perhaps, the fulfilment of international engagements might have come within the range of possibility. Mexico, however, has been like those fields where the harvests have been out of proportion to the fertility of the soil, and the day comes when the land becomes impoverished, yields nothing, and is obliged to lie fallow for one or two years.

The Undersigned considers he should not pass over in silence the charge which is made against his Government of having failed to fulfil their engagements in respect to the funds seized at the British Legation by functionaries of the Reaction, and to the money-convoy "occupied" at Laguna Seca.

In the first case, Government, with the consent of the Legation, engaged simply to make the perpetrators of the act responsible, and if such means did not lead to the desired result, viz., indemnity, to discuss others which might do so. No one, then, can say that until now Government has not fulfilled their engagement in this case.

As for the affair of Laguna Seca, when Government undertook to repay, within the space of four months, what remained unpaid of the amount "occupied" out of the "conducta," they did so at a time when they could not foresee that the remnant of the Reaction would turn refractory, and oblige them to enter upon an expensive campaign, which would upset all their financial calculations.

Notwithstanding this, however, they have made every kind of sacrifice, monetary and otherwise, to keep intact this special debt—to an extent, indeed, that has left them in possession of but a small available surplus. No one who does justice to the Mexican nation can refuse to acknowledge the exemplary manner in which she has endeavoured to satisfy her creditors, to the unstable disparagement of national interests.

The actual amount assigned for the payment of the foreign debt during the residence of the Constitutional Government at Vera Cruz, and that, too, at a time when the re-establishment of peace was being laboriously worked out, and when, consequently, the country could ill-sustain the heavy demands made upon it, speaks volumes in itself.

The little faith manifested by his Excellency Sir Charles Wyke as to the results of the Financial Law, and the small value he puts upon the guarantees it gives to foreign creditors, do not seem to be shared in by the parties themselves who are interested in the diplomatic Conventions, since it is only within the last few days that Government had all but concluded an arrangement with them, the basis of which would not have interfered with their present rate of interest, but it could not be perfected owing to Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary having refused to sanction it.

The same may be said of the creditors in the matter of the Laguna-Seca "conducta." Guided by natural instinct—so infallible a rule where individual interests are concerned—they did not, like Sir Charles Wyke, entertain any doubts about the prudence and sincerity of the Government. And touching these said doubts, amounting, as they do, to an insult, his Excellency will permit the Undersigned to exhort him to commune with his conscience, and ask it whether or not the tone of his Excellency's last communication is

such as should be used by a creditor, calling himself generous and indulgent, towards a friend who is in his debt and overwhelmed by difficulties.

It cannot escape the enlightened understanding of his Excellency the Representative of Great Britain that, in demanding from the Government of the Undersigned the withdrawal, within forty-eight hours, of the late Decree, he simply demands an impossibility. Neither could the Government initiate the withdrawal, for it would be equivalent to initiating the reign of anarchy and a general dissolution of society; nor could Congress, who had carried this law almost by acclamation, and who were convinced of its vital importance to the Republic, listen for a moment to such a proposition.

The protest with which his Excellency Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary concludes his note appears to the Undersigned so much the more superfluous, as in his very first note upon this subject the Undersigned had, so to speak, also protested, but against the supposition that the last Act of Congress in any way affected the lawful rights of the persons interested in the public debt.

The Undersigned will further take the liberty of stating, with all due deference and respect to Sir Charles Wyke's sound judgment, that, very far from seeing in the suspension of relations, now announced by his Excellency as Representative of Great Britain, an act due to the honour and dignity of England, he thinks it not improbable that all nations who consider the matter impartially will look upon this step as absolutely uncalled for; and he therefore trusts that his Excellency, while awaiting the instructions to which he alludes, will continue his friendly relations to this Government, for the interruption of which there can be no possible cause, while their maintenance will surely contribute to the satisfactory solution of the present difficulty.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

MANUEL DE ZAMACONA.

Inclosure 9 in No. 18.

Señor Zamacona to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Mexico, July 25, 1861.

THE Undersigned, &c., has this moment had the honour of receiving from his Excellency Sir C. Lennox Wyke, &c., the note in which his Excellency is pleased to announce the suspension of his relations with the Government of Mexico.

Sir Charles Wyke must have received the communication which the Undersigned had the honour of addressing to him at 5 o'clock this afternoon; this will prove the utter absence of any motive for a suspension of relations between the Government of Great Britain and that of the Mexican Republic.

Neither can there be any cause for the resolution taken by Sir Charles Wyke, in the expiration of the forty-eight hours fixed by his Excellency in his note of the 23rd instant (as the term to be allowed to Government for answering the ultimatum), inasmuch as it was only 7 o'clock in the evening of the 23rd that the above note was received at Government House.

The Undersigned, in calling attention to his last communication, avails, &c.

(Signed)

MANUEL DE ZAMACONA

Inclosure 10 in No. 18.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Zamacona.

(Private.)

Dear Sir,

Mexico, July 26, 1861.

AT 7 o'clock yesterday evening, that is, two hours after the expiration of the forty-eight hours in which I had required a reply to my note of the 23rd instant, I received yours dated the 25th, to which consequently I can only reply by a private letter, as its contents have in no way changed the resolution which both the French Minister and myself have been driven to adopt by the extraordinary and unjustifiable conduct of the Mexican Government with reference to the Decree of the 17th instant.

A careful perusal of your above-mentioned note has convinced me that mine of the 23rd, to which it is a reply, has not been properly translated to you, as you put some things into my mouth which I never said, and so twist the sense of others as to give them a totally different meaning from what they really convey.

Passing by this, however, I will only revert to the really essential part of your note, which is the refusal to rescind a financial scheme, the maintenance of which, besides plunging the Republic into further pecuniary difficulties, will have the effect of bringing it

into collision with the two first maritime Powers of the world, and that, too, in a quarrel which you have originated, and where, permit me to say, you are quite in the wrong.

As I am in thus writing to you unfettered by the reserve imposed in an official correspondence, I may tell you frankly that you are leaning on a broken reed when you trust to the sympathy of those whose interests Mexico has systematically sacrificed to her own. This is proved by the history of the foreign debt as applicable to the bondholders, which it would be well that you should carefully study, and you will then see that the repeated engagements made with them have up to the present moment always been either entirely evaded or only partially executed, as, for instance, when after consenting to a reduction of interest of from 5 per cent. to 3 per cent. on the condition of receiving certain payments from the duties levied in the Pacific ports, they do not receive one sixpence from that source, and are only very partially paid from the Atlantic Custom-houses.

I will not dwell on the long and dreadful list of murders committed on my unfortunate countrymen, which, with one exception I believe, have remained unpunished from the date of your independence down to the recent dreadful butchery of poor Mr. Beale at Naples.

Do you think that these lamentable facts are calculated to gain our sympathy or inspire us with confidence in a people who thus violate their engagements with us, and kill our fellow-subjects with perfect impunity?

It is really time that the Government of Mexico should open their eyes to the natural consequences produced by such conduct, and should become aware of the unfavourable opinion entertained of them in Europe.

Whose fault is it that the country has been deluged in blood ever since the declaration of its independence, but that of its own citizens, in constantly making revolutions and carrying on a series of fratricidal wars amongst themselves, which have reduced one of the finest countries in the world to misery, and so degraded its population as to make them dangerous, not only to themselves, but to everybody coming into contact with them!

You appeal to the generous sentiments of creditors towards an unfortunate debtor bowed down by his difficulties, forgetting that that debtor, with only common prudence within the last six months, might at this moment be actually free from debt, had he not wilfully and recklessly squandered the millions he then had at his disposal.

As to the mode of payment proposed to certain British claimants, to which you allude in your yesterday's note, it was so impracticable as to be unacceptable to all of them when its real nature was pointed out to them.

With regard to what you say about the Laguna Seca robbery and the Legation outrage, it is useless for the Mexican Government to deceive itself by calling the former an "occupation of funds," and the latter a deed performed by the "functionaries of the Reaction." The first was a theft, and the second an unheard-of violation of international law, committed by a Government recognized by every European nation, and for both these crimes, as yet unatoned for, Great Britain will surely hold this Republic fully responsible.

I have already extended this letter to an undue length, and must therefore conclude, but before doing so let me again urge you, for your own sakes, to retrieve the fatal error you have made with regard to this Decree, by immediately withdrawing it; for otherwise all official intercourse between this Legation and your Government becomes impossible, and you will remain with the responsibility attaching to an act which, both in form and substance, is perfectly unjustifiable.

Trusting that you will receive what I have now written in the spirit which really dictated these lines, I will take leave of a subject which is a much more serious one than seems to be supposed by the Mexican Government.

In a second note of yours received yesterday, you complained that my note, written at 5 o'clock on the 23rd, only reached you at 7 o'clock on that day, and that consequently, in writing to you yesterday at 5 o'clock, you had had only forty-six, instead of forty-eight hours' delay before the suspension of official relations.

This I regret, but it was not my fault, as on both days I despatched my note from here at half past 5 in the afternoon. In point of fact, however, the two hours thus lost are of no importance, as you refuse to withdraw the obnoxious Decree.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 11 in No. 18.

Messrs. Graham, Geaves & Co., and others, to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Mexico, July 23, 1861.

WE the undersigned British merchants beg leave most respectfully to solicit your Excellency's powerful assistance under the following circumstances.

By Article 13 of the Government Decree of July 17, which has been recently published (copy of which we inclose), the duty styled "contra-registro" is increased from 20 to 40 per cent. on the amount of import duty.

This double "contra-registro" duty is recoverable immediately, and, therefore, even goods which were forwarded last month (and but for the unprecedented bad state of the roads would have arrived before the Decree in question was issued), are also subject to the increase referred to, and which is the more unjust and severe as goods have been sold to arrive under the existing Tariff, and, consequently, a dead loss is at once sustained.

It is to be observed also that, as this additional duty is recoverable in the Federal district, or in the capital of the Republic only, all the other States are exempt from the charge, and, consequently, offering a further inducement to the illegitimate trader through the Northern frontier, to the extra detriment, not to say ruin, of the Vera Cruz merchant.

We would further beg leave to point out, for the consideration of your Excellency, that the measure now adopted by Government is in every way analogous to the one of the year 1839, when the duty then called "consumo" duty was increased from 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ to 50 per cent., but which through the influence of Her Majesty's Legation was abolished; and we believe to be correct in stating that a Diplomatic Convention was made at the time between Sir Richard Pakenham and the Mexican Government, to the effect that no increase of duties affecting British commerce could from that time forward be enforced, except with a prior notice of six months, a record of which, if we may be allowed to remark, will probably be found in the archives of Her Majesty's Legation for the years 1840-41, and there exists an acknowledged, though unsettled claim, at the present day for that increase of duty, which had been exacted on British goods during the first six months.

We have, &c.

(Signed) GRAHAM, GEAVES & Co.
And others.

Inclosure 12 in No. 18.

Sir C. Wyke to Messrs. Graham, Geaves & Co., and others.

Gentlemen,

Mexico, July 24, 1861.

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of your letter bearing yesterday's date, by which you request my assistance to prevent the execution of Article 13 of the Decree of the 17th instant, by which a double "contra-registro" duty is not only levied on goods imported into the Federal district, but is also claimed from the date of the Decree.

I fully concur in the justice of your observations on the subject, for the tax is not only injurious to the legitimate commerce of the country, but is also, in my opinion, a shameful robbery of those merchants who have sold their goods "to arrive."

I should not, therefore, have hesitated in protesting against the immediate application of the double "contra-registro" duty, but, as you are probably aware, the Decree in question contains infractions of international engagements of a most serious character; and I have, therefore, on these grounds, whilst protesting against the Decree, declared to the Mexican Government that if it is not withdrawn within forty-eight hours, I shall suspend all official intercourse with them until I receive further instructions with reference to this matter from Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 13 in No. 18.

Señor Zamacona to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

My dear Sir,

Mexico, July 27, 1861.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your letter of yesterday, and I am glad that it gives me the opportunity of asking you to listen once more to the voice of one who is as sincere as he is honourable; of one whose love for his country is only excelled by his love of justice and reason; of one, who is confident that you will be brought to do justice to the intentions of the Mexican Government, for, as if by inspiration, he knows you to be possessed of similarity of sentiment with himself.

It cannot be, that talented and generous as you are, you have yet thought it strange that Government should refuse to withdraw the Decree of the 17th instant. Your conscience must tell you, M. le Ministre, that it is an impossibility you ask of Government, for how could they entertain your proposition? The mere preliminaries for the suspension of a law which had passed Congress would take up more time than what you have allowed for deciding whether or not our official relations were to be maintained. This single fact would account for the position taken up by Government, as well as for their determination to meet boldly dangers and difficulties, even greater than those which you have had the goodness to warn me against.

Such a step as the one you now propose, if taken by Mexico, could not but prove suicidal to her political standing as a nation, for it would be equivalent to the surrender of her constitution and her sovereignty into the keeping of the Foreign Diplomatic Body, and that too in a matter where my inmost conviction tells me that justice is on our side.

Still, as in the correspondence which has passed between us during the last few days, I had seen the opposite doctrine sustained, and heard the conduct of my Government qualified repeatedly as unjustifiable, I began to distrust my own convictions about equity and common sense, so much so that I sought to justify myself and my country by a reference to international law, and I can only say, now that the work of reference is over, that my former convictions are only the more confirmed.

I perceive, M. le Ministre, that writers on international law hold it to be a general principle, that any change of circumstances, or the positive inability of one of the parties in a contract to fulfil the same, does of itself nullify a bond; and since I likewise, in my turn, may be permitted to avail myself of the advantages of a private letter, I will take the liberty of doing what might be considered in the light of pedantry were I writing to you officially, and make certain quotations which bear upon this question.

Grotius and Corcellus hold, that "the obligation which results from a compact becomes null and void so soon as its fulfilment becomes impossible." Wheaton too has the following passage: "Treaties may be avoided, even subsequent to ratification, upon the ground of the impossibility, physical or moral, of fulfilling their stipulations. Physical impossibility is where the party making the stipulation is disabled from fulfilling it for want of the necessary physical means depending on himself." In Martens we read, "Physical impossibility in a nation to fulfil treaty-engagements absolves it from the obligations of the compact, but not from the obligations to make indemnity, should it be proved that the physical impossibility could have been foreseen, or that it was caused by the nation itself." And Heffter has the following remarkable sentence: "The contracting party may refuse to fulfil his engagements, when their fulfilment becomes impossible and is likely to remain so, even though the contract be violated; more especially if private duties, or the rights and well-being of a people are concerned."

I could go on quoting, but I should exceed the limits of this note were I to bring forward the numerous authorities upon this recognized principle of international law.

There is, M. le Ministre, something inexplicably harsh in denying the right of Mexico to the sympathy of her creditors, and in saying that she has systematically sacrificed their interests to her own.

I had already, before receiving your advice, studied the history of the English debt, and my research has shown me that from the very date of the London loan, the Republic has been a loser, its actual loss amounting to something like 8,000,000 dollars; that when bonds were issued in the year 1824 she did nothing less than make good at par what she could have made good at 50 per cent; that later on she lost several millions in the failure of those British firms who had been mixed up in the business: yet that still, notwithstanding the civil war which has for years been raging in the country, she has made the bondholders such remittances as cannot but have filled their pockets beyond what could have been expected, considering the circumstances of the country.

But this refers solely to the exterior debt, which perhaps has suffered less than anything else from the vicissitudes Mexico has had to undergo, since, at all events, this particular debt has been attended to with something like the very care and method which the Government is desirous of employing in respect to the entire public debt.

While Her Majesty's Legation is talking about the history of the exterior debt, it would be well, if, instead of turning their attention solely to the question of the London loan, which has no diplomatic character whatever, they looked into the matter of the British Convention and stated frankly who really have been the sufferers in this business, and who have had to make sacrifices and undergo hardships. Let them say, whether or not the Republic has come off scot-free, when in the midst of her difficulties she has gone on punctually paying the assignments of the British Convention, and even increasing the rate of interest on those assignments.

In one of my last official communications I mentioned to you that feelings of delicacy prevented my entering into the details of the Convention question. I can, however, in a private letter call your attention to the kind of elements composing this diplomatic arrangement, and to the consequences resulting therefrom; indeed, it is only a few days ago that an English paper in this capital brought the matter to light, and proved nothing less than that Mexico had been paying for some tobacco concern at the rate of two ounces for each box of cigars.

As to the complaints which you have made about the robberies and murders that of late have been committed in the Republic, though they have not solely been committed upon the persons of Englishmen, but equally upon Mexicans, nobody need have less cause to blush than those who, like the present Government, are giving the most positive proofs of how much they are taken up with this subject, and of their anxiety to put a stop at any price to such atrocities, and who were actually on the point of procuring the means of carrying out their intentions, when those means were protested against by the British Legation.

Who, you ask, is to blame for the present state of affairs, and for the wars which have been desolating the Republic? I will tell you in all frankness, M. le Ministre, and you must not be astonished at what I am going to say.

If, as I suppose, you are well acquainted with what has happened since the date of our Independence, you will find that the origin of the evil can be traced to circumstances over which neither our race in general, nor this generation in particular, had any control. It was no work of theirs; while, as for what has taken place within the last few years, foreign Diplomatic Agents are in a great measure responsible for having recognized and given moral support to a handful of rebels who were utterly repudiated by the nation at large. Such, at all events, is public opinion.

In your last letter you still hold to the general but exaggerated notion, that many millions of the late Church property have been needlessly squandered away. My opinion upon this point, M. le Ministre, may be considered worth something, for no journalist has advocated more strenuously than I have done the necessity of a proper and organized administration of the property in question: yet I am sure that if the matter were reduced to figures, and the actual value of the Church property put on paper, with the positive depreciation that value has undergone owing to the civil war; and if, moreover, there be taken into consideration the sums paid from this source towards the extinction of the National Debt, the discount at which Government has been compelled to transact their negotiation in order to realize this property, and the surplus which still remains, I am sure, I repeat, that the charge of having squandered away millions will be found exaggerated.

I cannot understand why you should qualify as impracticable the arrangement which the parties interested in the British Convention had entered into with Government. This, or any other analogous one, would be very feasible upon the bases laid down in the Decree of the 17th for the guidance of the Special Finance Committee. This Decree has in no way sacrificed the rights of the public debt; and nothing is asked for either by the Government, the Congress, or the country, but the permission to attempt the pacification of the country, and carry out their administrative reform. They claim but this.

With respect to what you are pleased to say about the conduct of the Chiefs of the Federal army in having "occupied" certain funds at Laguna Seca, I will simply ask you whether you conceive the word "robbery" implies the idea of a future indemnity, such as was made voluntarily and at a great sacrifice on this occasion, as is proved by the trifling sum which still remains unpaid?

As for the outrage at the British Legation, I must correct a slight error you have made in referring to this act. It is not true that the authors of this outrage, at the time of its commission, were recognized by the Representatives of friendly Powers.

I thank you, in conclusion, most sincerely for the kind language you employ, while exhorting me to facilitate the renewal of our relations by the withdrawal of the Decree of the 17th instant; but it appears to me that the interest you profess in the matter would have lost none of its weight, and would have gained in dignity, had you accompanied it, by way of incentive, with some proposition for an arrangement not incompatible with the honour of the nation, and less unfeasible than the essentially impracticable one you have already made us.

Hoping that you will have the goodness to consider well the observations I now offer, and flattering myself that they may lead to the re-establishment of our official intercourse, for the interruption of which there is as yet no motive, I beg, &c.

(Signed) MANUEL DE ZAMACONA.

No. 19.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received August 29.)

My Lord,

Mexico, July 28, 1861.

SINCE this day last month, when I had the honour of writing to your Lordship describing the state of affairs in this unfortunate country, matters here have only been going from bad to worse, and every day's experience only more clearly proves the imbecility and bad faith of a Government now generally detested, and against which various conspiracies are on foot.

Marquez, at the head of about 4,000 men, still ravages the country, burning villages and levying contributions, without mercy, on the unfortunate inhabitants of whatever district he passes through, whilst the Government troops, under the command of General Ortega, go running about the country in the hope of catching the rebels, who elude their pursuit apparently with the greatest facility.

On the 28th of last month, Marquez, with a force amounting to nearly 5,000 men, marched upon Real del Monte, at which place there are some very valuable mines belonging to a mixed English and Mexican Company. Having easily overcome the Government troops stationed near the place, his people rushed tumultuously into the village, burst open the doors of the houses, which they pillaged without mercy, ill-treating the inhabitants, and breaking the prison gates in order to liberate more than ninety of the worst criminals in the Republic, who had been condemned to work in the mines. Fortunately no lives were lost, but the Surgeon of the Company, Dr. Griffin, received a sword-cut through the face, and the 160 English miners employed in the works were all more or less ill-treated, besides being robbed of their property to the amount, in the aggregate, of 3,898 dollars, a serious loss to these poor men, some of whom were thus deprived of their hard-earned savings to the amount of 200 and 300 dollars each. Marquez himself levied a contribution on the Company of 80,000 dollars, besides occasioning them a loss, during the three days he staid there, by the stoppage of works, stealing of horses, &c., amounting to the value of 20,000 dollars.

I inclose copy of a letter dated the 16th instant, which I have only just received, signed by the Director and all the Englishmen employed there, by which your Lordship will see that these poor people write to ask me what guarantee there is for the safety of their lives and property.

Marquez has, I hear, since then threatened another visit to the place for the purpose of levying fresh contributions. Other bands, under Mejia and Velez, hold the roads leading to the interior of the Republic, and carry out the same system of pillage and murder, having recently razed to the ground the town of Huichapam, and put to death many of its inhabitants.

The horrible murder, at Napoles, of poor Mr. Beale, a British subject, I have already mentioned to your Lordship in a separate despatch, and I need only add, that notwithstanding the incessant applications made to this Government by both myself and Her Majesty's Consul, the murderers remain still at large, ready to destroy the next unprotected foreigner whom they may surprise in an isolated place. The fate of this poor man is like that of Staines, Gibson, Duval, Bodmer, and a long list of others, whose deaths still remain unatoned for and unavenged.

Señor Comonfort, ex-President of the Republic, has arrived at Monterey, in Naevo Leon, where it is said the Governor has made a "pronunciamento" in his favour, which will very likely be joined in by the neighbouring States, and probably aided by a party in this capital, who are thoroughly disgusted with the weak and tyrannical government of Señor Juarez.

Señor Llave has taken possession of the Government of Vera Cruz, and this State, it is thought, would immediately separate from the Union in the event of a rupture with foreign Powers.

The general dissolution of all authority in this wretched country has so much alarmed foreigners resident here, that they are obliged to look to their own efforts to protect their lives and properties, and with this object in view are about to arm and organize themselves into a compact body for mutual defence. This measure has been sanctioned by their several Representatives, and consented to by the Government, on the express condition stipulated for by my colleagues and myself—that they were to remain strictly neutral in all the quarrels of the nation, and only act against those who actually attacked them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure in No. 19.

The Sub-Director and Miners employed at Real del Monte to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir, *Real del Monte, July 16, 1861.*

WE, the Undersigned, British subjects, residents of Real del Monte and Pachuca, take the liberty of addressing you on a most momentous question, in a word, to ask you, as Her Majesty's Representative, what guarantee we have for the safety of our lives and property.

Without referring to antecedents, such as the constant entrance of parties of rebels, or anti-Government forces, whereby we have been kept in a perpetual state of alarm and anxiety, we at once beg to call your serious attention, and through you that of the English Government, to what we suffered lately by the inroad of the forces under Marquez.

Our houses were forcibly entered, our females insulted, our lives threatened, and our property robbed to a large extent, to say nothing of the heavy losses occasioned to the Company of which we have the honour to form part, in forced loans, horses and arms taken, and the complete paralyzation of all works for days, thereby; as our interests are so mixed up with the prosperity or otherwise of the said Company, such a loss as they have sustained lately must be felt by all.

On former occasions two Englishmen were killed, and on this one was wounded, several were fired at, beaten, and narrowly escaped with their lives, and all this without the least provocation or slightest show of resistance on our part.

We have the honour to subjoin a list of most of the property lost by the English residents here; the original list, which is in the Company's office, bears the signature of General Cobos, as approved by him.

We have, &c.
(Signed) STEWART J. AULD, *Sub-Director.*
RICHD. SKINFILL, *Mine Manager.*
G. M. MURRAY, *Treasurer.*
WM. R. U. GRIFFIN, *Surgeon.*

(Here follow 129 signatures of English miners.)

No. 20.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 31, 1861.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches to that of the 28th ultimo inclusive.

I have to inform you that your conduct as stated in your despatch of the 26th ultimo is approved by Her Majesty's Government. Further instructions will be sent, and in the meantime you will act on my instructions of the 21st of August.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 21.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received September 7.)

(Extract.)

Paris, September 5, 1861.

M. THOUVENEL said that he was so desirous of acting in complete unison with Her Majesty's Government in Mexican affairs, that he had determined on furnishing M. Dubois de Saligny with instructions completely identical with those transmitted by your Lordship to Sir Charles Wyke.

His Excellency then requested me to ask your Lordship whether it might not be advisable to ask the association of the Spanish Government in any measures which might be taken with regard to Mexico. His Excellency observed that should a hostile demonstration become necessary, Spain possessed resources at the Havana, which might be of great assistance to Great Britain and France.

No. 22.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 10, 1861.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 11th of July, reporting the murder of Mr. Beale, and to your despatch of the 28th of that month, inclosing a representation from British miners at Real del Monte, I have to state to you that such atrocious outrages upon life and property committed towards British subjects cannot be extenuated by any condition of anarchy or civil war which may exist in Mexico, and that Her Majesty's Government must hold the Mexican nation answerable for such infamous proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 23.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 10, 1861.

I HAVE received your despatches of the 26th and 28th of July, and I have to convey to you the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government of your conduct as therein reported.

The suspension for two years of all payments in discharge of debt, at a time when the Mexican Government can afford to spend 6,000,000 dollars in six months, is a shameless breach of faith, which cannot be in the slightest degree excused by the pretences put forward by Señor Zamacona in its defence.

Señor Zamacona asserts that the present Government of Mexico are actively employed in maintaining internal and social order, in reorganizing the administration of the Republic, in introducing rigid economy into all the branches of the public service, and in vigorously putting an end to the civil war and restoring internal peace to the country. But it is notorious that every one of these assertions is directly the reverse of the truth. It is well known that life and property are nowhere safe, not even in the streets of the capital; that the Administration is as corrupt and as reckless of any interests but their own personal advantage as any that has heretofore governed in Mexico; that great anarchy and disorder prevail in all the departments of the Government; and that so far from their having applied the resources of the State to a vigorous suppression of the civil war, the opposite party under the adherents of Miramon were, by the last accounts, in great force within a short distance of the capital, and not unlikely to become its masters.

Her Majesty's Government, it is needless to say, cannot accept such excuses for the wrongs of which Her Majesty's subjects in Mexico have been the victims, and therefore, if the proposals contained in my despatches of the 21st ultimo are not accepted by the

Mexican Government, you will finally break off relations, and put yourself in communication with Rear-Admiral Milne, who will receive instructions from the Admiralty on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 24.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord,

Paris, September 10, 1861.

A COMMUNICATION has been made by the Spanish Ambassador to this Government that orders have been sent to the Captain-General at the Havana to take possession of Vera Cruz and Tampico for the protection of Spanish interests in Mexico.

The Spanish Government at the same time professes its desire to act in concert with Great Britain and France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 25.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received September 18.)

(Extract.)

Paris, September 17, 1861.

I MET the Spanish Ambassador at M. Thouvenel's this morning, who immediately turned the conversation on the affairs of Mexico, expressing the hope that the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Spain, would concert measures for common action in order to obtain the satisfaction due to them from the Mexican Government.

I replied to M. Mon that I had heard from M. Thouvenel that the Spanish Government had the intention of acting alone in this matter, and had already given orders for the occupation of Vera Cruz and Tampico; that having transmitted this information to Her Majesty's Government, Sir John Crampton had been instructed to make inquiries of the Spanish Government, and that Marshal O'Donnell had denied that any orders of the kind had been given: I should be glad, therefore, to ascertain how this matter really stood.

M. Mon replied that I must be aware that the Spanish Government had more than once meditated the employment of force to obtain the satisfaction due to them in Mexico, but that they had much rather act in concert with Great Britain and France. It would only be in case of the refusal of those two Powers to co-operate with Spain that she would proceed to act alone.

I related to M. Thouvenel what had passed between myself and M. Mon, observing that the Spanish Ambassador's language to me did not quite tally with what his Excellency had stated, the last time I had seen him, had been M. Mon's language to himself.

M. Thouvenel answered that he had not intended to convey more to me than that orders had been transmitted to the Havana to make every preparation for an expedition against Mexico, the Spanish Government hoping to employ it in co-operation with British and French ships. M. Thouvenel proceeded to express the hope that Her Majesty's Government would not refuse this co-operation, observing that 3,000 Spanish Infantry could be sent from the Havana.

I should mention that when the Spanish Ambassador urged the joint action of the three Governments, I stated to him the value which Her Majesty's Government must attach to freedom of religious profession and worship. M. Mon said that he considered that questions of that nature ought to be left to the decision of the Mexican Government. He abjured at the same time, on the part of Spain, all desire to impose any particular Government on Mexico; all she desired was a Government chosen by the Mexicans, which would make itself respected and would scrupulously fulfil engagements taken with foreign Powers.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord,

San Ildefonso, September 13, 1861.

IN a late conversation with Marshal O'Donnell, his Excellency spoke of the present deplorable condition of Mexico.

Spain, he remarked, had suspended her diplomatic relations with the Mexican Government, and he perceived both France and England had taken the same step. But would this be sufficient? He thought not. The motives of the three Governments in following this course were evidently the same, viz., to enforce redress for the intolerable wrongs inflicted upon their respective subjects by the anarchical Governments which succeeded each other in that distracted country.

It appeared to him, therefore, to be both possible and very desirable that England, France, and Spain should come to an understanding as to the adoption of some common course in enforcing upon Mexico the observance of her international duties.

"With respect to Spain," the Marshal added, "the number of our subjects in Mexico is so great, and the interests involved so considerable, that I have no hesitation in telling you that we, at all events, must take decided measures to protect them. In short, we shall go there, not certainly with any view of conquest or exclusive advantage, but for the protection of our rights."

I observed that I was not at present in possession of the precise views of Her Majesty's Government as to what had lately taken place in Mexico, or the remedies which would be applicable to what seemed an almost hopeless state of affairs. I was, however, aware that British subjects had suffered repeated acts of oppression and denial of justice in Mexico, and I had seen it reported that our diplomatic relations with that country had been suspended. I would not fail, consequently, to acquaint your Lordship with what had now fallen from his Excellency on this matter.

On pursuing the subject I did not find Marshal O'Donnell prepared to suggest any definite plan of action on the part of the Powers whose joint intervention he recommended. His Excellency remarked, however, that the notion which had at different times been put forward of establishing by foreign intervention a Constitutional Monarchy in Mexico was, in his opinion, very chimerical, and he seemed entirely to concur in the justness of a remark which I made in regard to this matter, viz., that any engagement which should bind England, France, and Spain to a permanent intervention or tutelage of any sort in the internal affairs of a country so situated as Mexico would be liable to grave objections.

I am the more particular in drawing your Lordship's attention to this opinion of Marshal O'Donnell because a large portion of the Spanish Press has lately been advocating an intervention of this sort, and the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico, and indulging in wild speculations as to the recovery by Spain of her ancient possessions in America and the "Indies."

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord,

San Ildefonso, September 16, 1861.

UPON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, informing me that Lord Cowley had reported that the Spanish Ambassador at Paris had announced that the Captain-General of Cuba had been ordered to take possession of Vera Cruz or Tampico for the protection of Spanish interests in Mexico, and that the Spanish Government at the same time proposes to act in concert with England and France, I immediately waited upon Marshal O'Donnell, and requested him to inform me whether this announcement had been made.

His Excellency replied that, with respect to the desire of Spain to adopt a common course with France and England for obtaining satisfaction from Mexico for the wrongs

inflicted upon their respective subjects, both M. Mon and M. Isturiz had been instructed in the same terms to express this desire to the French and British Governments; and to add that if those Governments declined to adopt the course proposed, Spain would, nevertheless, feel it necessary to take, singly, such measures as might be necessary to vindicate her rights. As regarded the statement that the Captain-General of Cuba had been ordered to take possession of Vera Cruz or Tampico, or to undertake any military operation against Mexico, it must have originated in a misapprehension, because he could assure me that no such orders had been given.

It was the wish of the Spanish Government, the Marshal added, to act in concert with France and England in regard to this matter, and he had desired to ascertain the disposition of the two Governments to do so, previously to deciding upon the measures which would be necessary to effect the object in view.

All that the Spanish Government had done, therefore, was to take such preparatory measures as were necessary to place them in a position to act efficaciously when the proper time came. With this view orders had been given to reinforce the garrison of Cuba by an addition of 4,000 troops, and to increase the naval force of Spain in the West Indies. The amount of the army in Cuba would be raised to about 25,000 men, and the naval force (the present amount of which his Excellency did not mention) would be increased by the presence of the four screw-frigates in which it was proposed to embark the troops from Spain. Two of these frigates were now about to sail, the remaining two would be ready at the end of the present month.

With regard to military operations against Mexico, the Marshal remarked that nothing could be undertaken before the commencement of November. The yellow fever prevailed at Vera Cruz and other parts of the coast during the present month, and the hurricanes which never failed to take place in the Gulf of Mexico during the equinox put any such operations out of the question before that period. There would, consequently, be ample time for the Spanish Government to ascertain whether the French and English Governments were disposed to act in concert with them, and to take measures for so doing in case those Governments should agree to adopt that course.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 28.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell. — (Received September 23.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 10, 1861.

MR. SEWARD told me this morning that he had authorized the United States' Minister in Mexico to conclude a Convention with that Republic, in virtue of which the United States should assume the obligation to pay 3 per cent. interest on the foreign debt of Mexico, during the period for which the payment of the interest on this debt is suspended by the recent Decree of the Mexican Government. The lands, minerals, &c., of certain provinces of Mexico were to be pledged to the United States as a guarantee that Mexico would repay to them, with 6 per cent. interest, the sum which they would thus advance for her.

The particulars of the scheme were, Mr. Seward said, to be communicated to the Governments of Great Britain and France, and the validity of the Convention was to be conditional upon those Governments engaging not to take any measures against Mexico to enforce the payment of the interest of the loan, until time had been given to submit the Convention to the ratification of the United States' Senate at the Session which begins in December next. It was also to be a condition, that if the Convention should be ratified by the United States' Senate, Great Britain and France should engage not to make any demand upon Mexico for the interest, except upon its failing to be punctually paid by the United States.

The inducement to the United States to take upon themselves the payment appeared to be the extreme importance to them of the independence of Mexico. So far as I could ascertain, the instructions to the American Minister with regard to this Convention do not direct him to propose an alliance offensive and defensive between the two Republics, nor, indeed, any other stipulations than those I have mentioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 23, 1861.

WITH reference to the affairs of Mexico, I have to state to you that it is most desirable that complications in this question should be avoided.

Certain rights on the Customs of Vera Cruz and Tampico have been secured to Her Majesty's Government by Convention.

To secure these and other rights the Government of Mexico has been invited to give the control of those Customs to British Commissioners, who, it is understood, should also pay to other nations the sums due to them, and secured on the same Customs.

No orders have as yet been given by Her Majesty's Government for the employment of force in Mexico, and they would be glad to know if the Spanish Government will agree to postpone their action till England and France can have time to confer as to acting in concert.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 23, 1861.

THE COUNT DE FLAHAULT has communicated to me the substance of a despatch from his Government on the affairs of Mexico.

In this despatch M. Thouvenel, referring to the instructions recently given by the two Powers to their Representatives in Mexico, and which, if the demands presented therein to be made on the Mexican Government are acquiesced in, will admit of the resumption of official relations on their part with the Government of the Republic, proceeds to say that it is necessary to provide for the two contingencies, of a refusal on the part of the Mexican Government, or of the overthrow of the Juarez Government before the English and French Ministers receive their instructions.

M. Thouvenel then adverts to the measures of coercion to which, in the first case, the two Governments might have recourse, and to the importance of coming to an early understanding on that point; and he goes on to say that, even supposing the second contingency to be realized, the two Governments would, nevertheless, have to devise means for obtaining redress of grievances, and for ensuring the payment of the debts which have been formally acknowledged.

M. Thouvenel is, however, of opinion that the two Governments should carry their common understanding still further, and devise means for promoting the political reorganization of Mexico; and M. Thouvenel expresses his willingness to take as a basis the measures formerly suggested by Her Majesty's Government, as affording the best means of arriving at the pacification of the country, namely, the publication of a general amnesty, and the convocation of an extraordinary Congress. He expresses his opinion, however, that the Cabinet of Madrid should be invited to concur in the course to be taken by the two Powers, and that the Cabinet of Washington should also have the opportunity afforded to it of joining the other Powers.

Finally, M. Thouvenel adverts to a communication just made to him by the Spanish Ambassador of the intended despatch of a Spanish force from the Havana to the coast of Mexico, and of the readiness of the Court of Madrid to act in concert with France and England.

Upon this matter I wish you to observe to M. Thouvenel that the demands of Great Britain upon Mexico are founded upon two principles:—

1st. The right to require security for the lives, and respect for the property, of British subjects in Mexico.

2nd. The right to exact the fulfilment of obligations contracted towards Great Britain by the Government of Mexico.

On these two principles are founded the claims urged by Sir C. Wyke. The British Government is ready to prosecute these claims by its own means, or to join with other Powers who have claims founded on similar principles regarding their own subjects.

Her Majesty's Government are glad to find by M. Thouvenel's despatch that the

Government of His Imperial Majesty takes the same view of this matter, and Her Majesty's Government will willingly enter into concert with the Government of France as to the course to be pursued. Her Majesty's Government also fully concurs with M. Thouvenel in thinking that before any active steps are taken in this matter by the European Powers, an offer of co-operation ought to be made by them to the Government of the United States. The interest of the United States in the peace and prosperity of Mexico is such that Her Majesty's Government agree with M. Thouvenel in thinking that full communication should be made to the United States' Government.

It does not appear that the Spanish Government have as yet sent any precise orders for the immediate employment of their forces in Mexico. There is, therefore, time for deliberation and concert.

With respect to the measures to be taken for the future peace and tranquillity of Mexico, Her Majesty's Government are ready to discuss the subject with France, Spain, and the United States. But it is evident that much must depend on the actual state of affairs at the time when our forces may be ready to act on the shores of Mexico. The measures suggested some time ago by Her Majesty's Government appear to be inapplicable to the present state of affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 31.

M. Isturiz to Earl Russell.—(Received September 24.)

(Translation.)

My Lord,

London, September 23, 1861.

THE despatches which I have lately received from my Government announce to me an important fact.

The injuries which the Republic of Mexico seems determined to inflict upon us being unceasingly repeated, and all the measures of consideration which Spain is always inclined to adopt, so far as honour will permit, having been exhausted, the Government of the Queen my august Sovereign has at length resolved to obtain by force the reparation that is due to it.

The despatches of my Government also inform me that Sir John Crampton, the Representative of Great Britain in Madrid, is already aware of this resolution, and of the sentiments which dictate it, so that I might almost dispense with communicating it to your Excellency.

However, it has appeared proper to me not to omit it, so that your Excellency may be fully informed of this affair through the most direct channel.

The Government of the Queen my Mistress has therefore made arrangements to operate energetically in Mexico, and hopes to obtain the satisfaction that it claims, although it does not disguise from itself that the result of any demonstration of this sort would be more permanent if other Governments, those of England and France for example, having injuries to avenge, should think proper to unite their forces to those of Spain.

A combination of this kind would perhaps avert the repetition of such scandals, and contribute to the recognition by the Mexicans of the necessity of constituting a Government which would give security at home, and sufficient guarantees abroad.

With this object, I have, &c.

(Signed) XAVIER E ISTURIZ.

No. 32.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received September 26.)

(Extract.)

Paris, September 24, 1861.

I HAD the honour to receive, this morning, your Lordship's despatch of yesterday's date, giving me the substance of a communication which had been made to you by Count de Flahault on the affairs of Mexico, and stating the willingness of Her Majesty's Government to concert with the French and other Governments recognizing the same principles of action as Her Majesty's Government, the course which should be pursued by them in that country.

M. Thouvenel on my communicating to him your Lordship's despatch expressed his

concurrence in the views of Her Majesty's Government, but he remarked that as your Lordship seemed to be of opinion that the measures suggested some time ago for the pacification of Mexico were inapplicable to the present state of affairs, he should be glad to receive from you the plan of action which you now proposed to follow.

I inquired of M. Thouvenel whether he was in possession of any intelligence, either from Washington or from Mr. Dayton, of a proposal made by the United States' Government to that of Mexico with regard to the payment of the interest on the Mexican foreign debt; and finding that no intelligence on the subject had reached his Excellency, I stated to him the substance of Lord Lyons' despatch to your Lordship of the 10th instant. M. Thouvenel expressed the opinion that these proposals of the United States must be dealt with before the other Governments interested in the Mexican question could settle any plan of common action, and he expressed himself very anxious to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government. It might not be possible, he said, to prevent the United States offering money to Mexico, or to prevent Mexico receiving money from the United States, but neither England nor France ought in any way to recognize the transaction.

I said that I trusted that in case of Mr. Dayton making any representation on this subject, M. Thouvenel would abstain from all reply until I should be in a position to inform him of the views of Her Majesty's Government, and his Excellency promised me to follow this course.

No. 33.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1861.

I RECEIVED from Mr. Adams on the 25th instant an explanation of the proposals the United States wish to make to Great Britain and France in the affairs of Mexico.

He said that the United States' Government were considerably alarmed at the statements made in the newspapers regarding an intervention in Mexico, which was supposed to be in the contemplation of Great Britain, France, and Spain.

The United States' Government were aware that Great Britain, France, and Spain, as well as the United States, had many grievances to complain of on the part of the Government of Mexico. But a direct intervention with a view to organize a new Government in Mexico, and especially the active participation of Spain in such an enterprise, would excite strong feelings in the United States. It would be considered as that kind of direct interference in the internal affairs of America to which the United States had always been opposed. In fact, there was a sort of understanding that so long as European Powers did not interfere in America, the United States might abstain from European alliances; but if a combination of Powers were to organize a Government in Mexico, the United States would feel themselves compelled to choose their allies in Europe, and take their part in the wars and Treaties of Europe.

The United States' Government thought that such a necessity would be avoided if Great Britain and France would accept the payment of interest, by the United States, of the debt due by Mexico to Great Britain and France, this advance to be continued only for a time till Mexico should be able to defray her own obligations.

I replied by relating to him, in the first place, what had taken place in Mexico itself. I then stated the overture of M. Thouvenel, including the proposal to make offers to the Government of the United States to act in co-operation with us on this subject. That we had replied we had but two objects in view:—1. Security to the persons and property of British subjects. 2. The fulfilment of all the obligations of Mexico to Her Majesty. Mr. Adams, I continued, would see that our demands embraced not only the payment of interest on a debt which might be settled by naming a fixed sum, be it more or less, but also comprehended satisfaction for the injuries done to British subjects. That we could hardly transfer these obligations to the United States without raising an infinite number of questions of detail upon which Great Britain and Mexico would have to appeal to the equity of the United States. That I thought it the interest of our two countries to have as few entangling questions and clashing interests as possible. I should be afraid that our friendly relations might be endangered if we increased the number of points upon which we might come into collision. That, without giving him a final answer, I could tell him at once that I thought the proposition of his Government open to very grave objections.

Without entering further upon its merits, however, I had a counter-proposition to make which I thought deserved the serious consideration of his Government, to whom I begged it might be submitted.

I was as apprehensive as he was of an attempt to build upon the foundation of debts and injuries a claim to organize a new Government in Mexico. That I was convinced that, of all countries, Mexico was the one where intervention in its internal affairs would bring the most severe disappointment upon its authors. That the factions in that country were too hostile to each other, and too sanguinary in their tempers, to be reconciled by a small force of Europeans in the name of order and moderation. But might not the evils we both feared be guarded against by defining terms of co-operation with Spain which would exclude interference in the internal affairs of Mexico? Would not this be a better course than leaving Spain to seek her own vindication, and afterwards opposing the results of her operations?

I read to Mr. Adams parts of Sir John Crampton's despatch of the 13th instant, to show him that Marshal O'Donnell was by no means desirous of undertaking the re-conquest of the Indies.

Mr. Adams promised me that he would communicate this view to his Government.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that if any combined operations are to be taken against Mexico, they should be founded on these two bases:—

1. The combined Powers of France, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States, feel themselves compelled, by the lawless and flagitious conduct of the authorities of Mexico, to seek from those authorities protection for the persons and property of their subjects and a fulfilment of the obligations contracted by the Republic of Mexico towards their Governments.

2. The said combined Powers hereby declare that they do not seek any augmentation of territory, or any special advantage, and that they will not endeavour to interfere in the internal affairs of Mexico or with the free choice of its form of government by its people.

You will read this despatch to M. Thouvenel, and give him a copy of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 34.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1861.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of this day's date, I transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid,* upon the subject of the state of affairs at Mexico, and which is alluded to in my above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 35.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1861.

I INCLOSE a copy of a note which Mr. Isturiz has sent me.†

Her Majesty's Government have many injuries to complain of in regard to Mexico, especially the atrocious robbery committed in the house of Her Majesty's Legation at Mexico, and against which the Spanish Minister in Mexico protested in vain.

Her Majesty's Government would willingly co-operate with those of France and Spain in enforcing redress for these wrongs. There are, however, two conditions which Her Majesty's Government deem essential:—

The first is, that the co-operation of the United States should be invited.

The second is, that the combined Powers should not interfere by force in the internal government of Mexico.

Her Majesty's Government would be happy to see the Mexicans constitute a Government "which would give security at home, and sufficient guarantees abroad." But

Her Majesty's Government are persuaded that any attempt to effect this desirable purpose by foreign arms would fail in its purpose. If the force were Spanish, one of the contending parties would be fiercely opposed to it; if it were English, the opposite party would be as strongly its antagonist: nor is any other foreign force likely to be received with favour. The Mexicans themselves can alone put an end to the anarchy and violence which have torn Mexico to pieces during the last years.

I trust this view is in accordance with the sentiments of the Duke of Tetuan and the Government of Her Catholic Majesty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 36.

Earl Russell to M. de Isturiz.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 27, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 23rd instant, acquainting me with the course which your Government propose to pursue with a view to obtaining satisfaction for the injuries inflicted on Spanish subjects in Mexico, and pointing out the advantage of concerted action on the part of England, France, and Spain, for the purpose of putting an end to the present state of affairs in that Republic; and I beg leave to assure you, in reply, that the question shall be duly considered by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 37.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1861.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Earl Cowley,* giving his Excellency an account of a conversation which I have had with Mr. Adams respecting the proposal of the Government of the United States in regard to Mexico, referred to in your despatch of the 10th instant, and I have to instruct your Lordship to speak to Mr. Seward in the same sense as that in which I spoke to Mr. Adams.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 38.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1861.

I HAVE to state to you, with reference to my despatches of the 21st of August and of the 10th of September, that if circumstances should have caused you to quit the territory of the Mexican Republic, you are at liberty to use your own discretion as to the direction in which you shall proceed, keeping, however, in the neighbourhood of Admiral Milne, and having means of ready communication with him.

You will of course give notice to Rear-Admiral Milne; but that officer will not yet have received the instructions from the Admiralty to which I alluded in my despatch of the 10th of this month, inasmuch as Her Majesty's Government are still in communication with the Governments of other Powers having similar interests in Mexico to those of this country, as to the course which should be pursued under the existing state of things in that Republic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell. — (Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Mexico, August 8, 1861.

IN the postscript of my despatch of the 26th ultimo, I stated that I should merely acknowledge receipt of the private note I had just received from Señor Zamacona, but on reflection I thought it better not to leave unanswered the false and incorrect statements it contained, and I therefore replied to him on the 30th ultimo, copy of which note I have now the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Zamacona.

(Extract.)

Mexico, July 30, 1861.

I CAN really see no good reason for continuing a correspondence which cannot in any way alter, as you seem to suppose it may do, the resolution I have adopted to suspend all official relations with your Government; yet, out of courtesy to one so well entitled to it as yourself, I will not leave unanswered your note of the 27th, with the premise, however, that having fulfilled this duty, all further communications relative to this matter must cease.

It is remarkable, that mutually desirous as we are of stating the truth, we should each feel the greatest astonishment at the other's entertaining so diametrically opposite an opinion upon a subject which, on being calmly considered, can only be looked at in one point of view.

If you feel surprise that I should have demanded the repeal of the Decree of the 17th instant, how much greater must mine have been on finding that your Government had dared to issue it without consulting with me as the Representative of that Power which was the other Contracting Party to a Convention which said Decree shamefully violated.

I cannot appreciate the false pride which, according to what you state, was the principal reason for not complying with what I demanded, for when either a nation or an individual is in the wrong, it is not dishonourable to confess it, and to offer reparation for the offence given. Had your Government withdrawn the Decree, they would not have been disgraced by giving way, as you assert, to the dictation of foreign diplomacy, but they would simply have retrieved a false step, and, in doing so, relieved themselves from an amount of responsibility of which at present they seem to have no idea.

In order to sustain your argument you make a number of quotations from various authors who have written on international law; but apart from the fact that such quotations are valueless without their context, there is one amongst them that directly condemns a measure which you have always said was meant to relieve the State from its pecuniary difficulties. De Martens, you say, states that the party violating an engagement is liable to indemnify the other party where such breach of contract has been caused by the offender's fault.

Now, the Government of President Juarez on coming to power was possessed of ample means to liquidate all the engagements binding on the Republic, but by their wilful recklessness and want of common prudence they dissipated their resources, and then fell into the difficulties from which they are now vainly endeavouring to extricate themselves by repudiating their obligations; they therefore clearly become liable to indemnify Great Britain, and thus, as I have all along told you, you aggravate instead of mitigate the evil of your poverty by the Decree of the 17th.

You go on to say that many of your misfortunes have been occasioned by Diplomatic Agents here having acknowledged a Government which you dislike, and in reply I can only once more observe that such Agents were obliged, on the principle now universally recognized, to acknowledge a real *bonâ fide de facto* Government holding the capital and the archives of the nation.

As for your remarks about Church property, let me remind you that it is difficult to overcome the inexorable logic of facts by a few well-turned phrases; we all know what that property was, and we are now equally well aware that your Government is in a state of penury, and with respect to the means proposed for paying the English claimants I

thought I had already told you that they had been condemned on reflection by the parties themselves, and not through any obstacle that I had thrown in the way.

In the matter of the Laguna Seca "conducta," I repeat that I am justified in calling robbery the act of taking by force that which belongs to another and not returning it; promises and fair words go for nothing in such a case as this: and I also beg again to assert that the Government which committed the Legation outrage was a *de facto* Government recognized by the Agents of European Powers resident here.

Under these circumstances, and with the greatest desire to meet your wishes, allow me here to observe that I can really find nothing in your note but what confirms me still more in a resolution forced on me by the obstinacy of your Government, and which my duty likewise absolutely compelled me to adopt.

If you had studied the history of the Mexican debt to the English bondholders with the attention that it really deserves, you would have learnt that the latter have in reality sacrificed, in order to relieve the Republic at various times, the enormous sum of upwards of 59,000,000 dollars. The last great concession made was in 1850, when the interest was reduced from 5 to 3 per cent., a transaction which your own financial Agent, Señor Payno, boasts of in his statement of 1852 as having benefited the Republic to the amount of 25,581,570 dollars.

You have further thought fit to attack the nature of the British Convention, and I must therefore remind you that it was founded entirely on British claims the justice of which the Mexican Government acknowledged in signing that Act, and that if a great many of the bonds are now held by Mexicans instead of Englishmen it has so come about in the natural course of money transactions on 'Change, where bonds and shares pass from hand to hand according to the wants of buyers and sellers.

With regard to what you say in reply to my complaint of so many Englishmen having been butchered with impunity by your countrymen, it is no satisfaction to me to learn as a set-off that some Mexicans have also been murdered by their fellow-citizens without the crime having been punished.

These crimes and the senseless wars carried on here since the Declaration of your independence are to be attributed to the bad passions of a vitiated population, which alone can be held responsible for a state of things unparalleled in the annals of the civilized world.

I cannot, in justice to myself, conclude this letter without telling you frankly that I consider the mere fact of my having under existing circumstances expressed an interest in the solution of the present question ought to have saved me from the reproof of having proposed to your Government what was incompatible both with my own and their dignity; and excuse me for adding that such a proposition as I have made to you does not necessarily become undignified and impracticable simply because you, an interested person, are pleased to say so.

No. 40.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 29.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, August 12, 1861.

IN my despatch of the 27th of May last I pointed out to your Lordship the nature of the terms accepted by Mr. Mathew on his recognition of the Juarez Government, for the repayment of the 660,000 dollars robbed from the British Legation in the month of November last, by which that Government promised to reimburse the money so stolen by confiscating, for that purpose, the private property of all those persons found guilty, by a legal sentence, of participating in that outrage.

The inclosed extract from Saturday's "Estafette" gives an account of the sentence which has been passed on three of the persons implicated; viz., Don Isidro Diaz, Francisco Montéro, and Teofilo Marin, the first of whom was Minister of Justice and Legal Adviser to General Miramon.

The wretched quibble by which the accused are declared innocent of robbery, while found guilty of "occupying" funds belonging to the English bondholders, is quite in character with all that is now occurring here, and proves the utter degradation of a Government whose Judges even make use of a slang phrase, such as "ocupacion" has become, in order not to employ the word properly qualifying a crime which, instead of punishing, they seek to palliate by such unworthy means.

This sentence will, of course, have the effect of absolving Marquez and all others

implicated in the robbery, as it frees them from the danger of criminal prosecution for what is now designated as merely a civil misdemeanour, the only punishment for which is dismissal from offices long ago forfeited by all the parties engaged in this affair.

As far as we are concerned, therefore, in our relations with the Mexican Government the case stands thus:—

They deny their responsibility for any acts of their predecessors, whose private property they say should be confiscated to repay the money stolen; and when measures are apparently taken for that purpose, the Judge who tries the case declares that the accused are only guilty of a misdemeanour, and, therefore, that their property is safe from confiscation for so trifling an offence, for which they can only be proceeded against by civil process, as for the recovery of a debt, which under the circumstances would be an absurdity. We thus neither obtain justice or compensation, unless Her Majesty's Government are determined to obtain both, by employing the only means likely to succeed with a Government so utterly unprincipled as this.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Extract from the "Estafette" of August 10, 1861.

LES PROCES POLITIQUES.—Le Juge de District a rendu sa sentence dans le procès intenté à MM. Isidro Diaz, Francisco Montero, et Teofilo Marin. L'acquittement a été prononcé sur le chef de vol des fonds de la Convention Anglaise.

Les considérans sur lesquels s'appuie cette décision judiciaire méritent d'être connus; aussi reproduisons-nous ici le texte de la sentence:—

"Juzgado de District de Mexico.—En la ville de Mexico, le 3 Août, 1861, le citoyen Licencié Jesus Maria de Herrera, deuxième Suppléant de Juzgado de District de la capitale de la République: vu les pièces du procès intenté à MM. Francisco Montero, Isidro Diaz et Teofilo Marin, pour vol des fonds de la Convention Anglaise (tels sont les termes contenus dans l'acte d'accusation) commis le 17 Novembre, 1860, dans la maison située Rue de Capuchinas et portant le No. 11, a déclaré:

"Considérant que la saisie ('ocupacion') de fonds publics ou particuliers exécutée par des individus qui sont en état de rébellion contre le Gouvernement légitime, ou, en d'autres termes, que le fait de s'emparer par la violence de valeurs appartenant à des particuliers ou à des corporations, aux Etats ou au Trésor public de la Fédération, constitue un cas expressément prévu par les lois du pays, et notamment par la Loi du 22 Février, 1832, déclarée en pleine vigueur par l'Article 58 de la Loi du 6 Décembre, 1856, prescrivant les peines encourues pour délits contre la nation, contre l'ordre et la paix publique;

"Considérant que ces faits entraînent pour leurs auteurs et les complices de ces derniers, non la responsabilité criminelle, mais une responsabilité purement civile, ('responsabilidad puramente civil'), attendu que la susdite Loi de Février, 1832, se borne à les déclarer responsables solidairement dans leurs biens propres ('responsables de mancomun in solidum con sus bienes propios'), sans autre peine que la perte des honneurs et des emplois dont, au moment de consommer la saisie ('ocupaciones') jouissaient les individus en révolte contre le Gouvernement;

"Considérant qu'en raison de ce qui précède, il existe une différence substantielle entre les saisies ('ocupaciones') de fonds publics ou particuliers opérées par les agents de la rébellion dans le but de favoriser et soutenir celle-ci, et les vols commis par des individus n'ayant pas ce caractère et n'ayant d'autre but que de tirer un avantage personnel de l'argent dont ils s'emparent; attendu que le premier cas constitue simplement un délit politique qui aux yeux de la loi n'a d'autre conséquence que la responsabilité purement civile ('responsabilidad puramente civil'), tandis que le second constitue un délit de l'ordre commun qualifié de vol et dont les auteurs et leurs complices sont désignés sous le nom de voleurs ('ladrones') et méritent les peines qui résultent non seulement de la responsabilité civile mais des délits criminels;

"Considérant comme étant comprise dans la première catégorie la saisie des fonds destinés au paiement des créanciers Anglais, exécutée par ordre des Chefs rebelles Miramon et Marquez, le 17 Novembre, 1860, dans la maison portant le No. 11 de la Rue de Capuchinas de cette ville, attendu que ce fait a tous les caractères définis par la Loi du 22 Février, 1832;

"Considérant que, en raison de ce qui précède, les auteurs et complices de la saisie doivent être considérés simplement comme passibles de la responsabilité civile ('responsa-

bilidad civil”) pour le seul fait de la saisie, dans les termes indiqués par la susdite loi, attendu que la responsabilité criminelle ne résulte que des délits de l’ordre commun qui ont pu se commettre à l’occasion de la saisie, soit qu’ils consistent dans la violence exercée contre les personnes en les maltraitant, en les blessant, ou en leur donnant la mort, soit qu’ils se rapportent aux choses, en forçant les serrures, en brisant les coffres ou en violant les scellés destinés à protéger les valeurs saisies;

“Considérant qu’il résulte, soit du procès-verbal inscrit aux feuillets 7, 8, 9, et 10 du dossier principal, et dressé par ‘Pesciribano Negreiros’ sur les faits qui se passèrent lors de l’occupation des fonds des créanciers Anglais, le 17 Novembre, 1860, soit des déclarations fournies par MM. Antonio Barrera et Ricardo Ituarte, enregistrées aux feuillets 4 et 12 du dossier des preuves, ainsi que de celles fournies par MM. Ignacio de la Barrera et Juan Ramirez, feuillets 7 et 9 verso du dit dossier; que M. Francisco Montero n’est pas intervenu, et même n’était pas présent lorsque, pendant l’accomplissement de la saisie (‘ocupacion’) les délits dont il est question ont pu se commettre, attendu que, bien que sa signature figure au procès-verbal, le notaire ne fait pas figurer son nom parmi ceux des personnes qui ont été témoins des faits expressément énoncés dans le corps de ce document; d’autre part qu’il faut donner à cette insertion la valeur attribuée aux déclarations de MM. Andres Maria Peza, Luis Carrion, et Angel Buenabad, inscrites aux feuillets 5 verso, 6 recto, 8 recto et verso, et 11 recto et verso du susdit dossier des preuves, c’est-à-dire, que le fait s’est borné à recevoir la somme saisie, et que M. Francisco Montero n’a pas été présent à l’accomplissement des faits, attendu qu’il est prouvé qu’il se présenta au lieu de la saisie après que les fonds avaient été enlevés et transportés dans la cour de la maison portant le numéro 11;

“Considérant que ce simple fait ne rend pas M. Francisco Montero responsable des actes plus ou moins criminels qui ont pu s’accomplir avant et pendant la saisie (‘ocupacion’) dans l’enceinte des pièces où se trouvaient déposées les fonds de la Convention Anglais, et qu’il constitue l’exercice d’une des attributions naturelles de son emploi de commissaire de l’armée réactionnaire, ce qui constitue la responsabilité politique qui incombe, d’après la constitution et les lois en vigueur, à tous ceux qui servent les Gouvernements émanés de la rébellion;

“Considérant que cette dernière responsabilité même ne pèse pas sur le susdit Don Francisco Montero, attendu que les circulaires publiées par le Gouvernement National les 8 Mars et 30 Avril de la présente année bornent l’action de la justice aux chefs (‘cabecillas’) de rébellion et à ceux qui en qualité de Ministres d’Etat ont servi les Administrations illégitimes de Miramon et de Zuloaga, et que les circulaires amnistient (‘amnestiando’) tous les autres employés d’un ordre secondaire, au nombre desquels doit être placé le Commissaire-Général de l’armée (‘Comisario-General del ejercito’);

“Considérant qu’il est vrai qu’il peut résulter contre M. Francisco Montero un motif plus grave de responsabilité du fait de sa présence dans la maison où les fonds ont été saisis, par cela seul qu’il les a reçus (circonstance pleinement prouvée dans le procès), il n’en est pas de même en ce qui concerne M. Isidro Diaz et M. Teofilo Marin, auxquels, bien qu’il n’existe contre eux aucune preuve relativement à la saisie des fonds de la Convention Anglaise, le Juge chargé de l’instruction de la cause a attribué une responsabilité de simple probabilité (‘mera probabilidad’), suppléant par le fait de la présomption (‘conciencia de hombre’) à l’absence de preuves légales et authentiques;

“Considérant enfin qu’il est impropre (‘impropia’) et contraire aux termes exprès de la Loi du 22 Février, 1832, de qualifier de vol par bande (‘robo en cuadrilla’), comme il a été fait dans l’acte d’accusation, la saisie des fonds destinés au paiement des créanciers Anglais, attendu les faits énoncés dans les premiers motifs; d’où il résulte que la Loi du 5 Janvier, 1857, relative au jugement des voleurs, des homicides, des auteurs de voies de fait et des vagabonds (‘ladrones, homicidas, heridores y vagos’) ne pouvait pas servir de guide dans l’instruction du procès et dans la décision, vu qu’elle ne traite pas de délits communs (‘responsabilidades comunes’) qui sont du ressort de la justice ordinaire, mais de délits politiques et civils (‘politicos y civiles’), lesquels sont exclusivement du ressort des tribunaux de la Fédération, aux termes des Lois Spéciales du 22 Février, 1832, et du 6 Décembre, 1856;

“Il devait absoudre et il a absout en ce qui concerne cette accusation, conformément aux dispositions de la susdite Loi du 22 Février, 1832, MM. Francisco Montero, Isidro Diaz et Teofilo Marin, et il devait déclarer et a déclaré le premier passible de la peine prescrite par la dite loi en ce qui concerne les emplois et charges honorifiques dont il pouvait jouir au moment de la saisie (‘ocupacion’) des fonds de la Convention Anglaise; et ce sans préjudice du droit des tiers et notamment de ceux du Trésor public dont le représentant légal sera fondé à procéder judiciairement.

“Cette sentence sera communiquée au Promoteur F’scal, aux accusés et à leurs

défenseurs ; après quoi elle sera portée devant le Tribunal Supérieur, pour être approuvée, modifiée, ou révoquée, selon la justice. Ainsi par les présentes il a été jugé définitivement, rendu sentence, ordonné et signé.

“ En foi de quoi j'ai signé.
(Signé)

“ LIC. JESUS MARIA DE HERRERA.
“ A. GILBERTO MORENO, *Secrétaire.*”

No. 41.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Mexico, August 23, 1861.

ON the 14th instant General Ortega returned to this capital with the division under his command, amounting to between 3,000 and 4,000 men, after having had two days' previously a night skirmish at Jalatlaco, with the forces of General Marquez, who retreated, leaving some guns and about eighty prisoners in the hands of the enemy.

Ortega, who was heartily tired of the campaign, and anxious to return to this city with a view of intriguing against Juarez, and getting himself elected President, magnified this affair into an important victory, and declared that the Reactionary forces were annihilated, and the rebellion put down. So far from this being the case, however, we have since learnt that Marquez is still at the head of 4,000 men, and that Megia, another Chief of the same faction, has nearly 3,000 Cavalry and Infantry under his orders. These forces are in the centre of the country, and interrupt all direct communication between this place and the interior of the Republic. The partizans of Ortega were noisy in their joyful demonstrations in honour of this so-called victory, and paraded the streets at night with music and a torchlight procession. At about 10 o'clock a large party of them drew up in front of the French Legation, where they remained about twenty minutes, shouting “Death to the French Minister, and death to all Frenchmen!”

In the course of the same evening a shot was fired at M. de Saligny, the French Minister, whilst he was walking up and down an interior corridor of his house. The ball struck and flattened against a pillar near which he was passing, fortunately without injuring him, as the fragment of detached stone hit him on the right arm.

On his colleagues being made acquainted with this infamous attempt on his life, a meeting of the Corps Diplomatique was held at Mr. Corwin's, the American Minister, for the purpose of addressing the Government collectively, not only with reference to this attack on one of the members of their body, but also to remonstrate against the demonstration before the French Legation having been allowed to take place without any interference whatever on the part of the police.

I have the honour to inclose herewith copies of the correspondence which took place between the Corps Diplomatique and this Government, which, as usual in all cases of outrage, has hitherto led to no result whatever beyond specious promises of redress.

Since this event General Ortega has been sworn in as head of the Supreme Court of Justice, which gives him the legal right of succession to the Presidency in the event of anything happening to Juarez, who, by his utter incapacity, has proved himself so unworthy of the post he now holds. A meeting of the Congress has been summoned for the 30th instant, when it is supposed an effort will be made to get rid of him, and elect General Ortega in his stead.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

The Representatives of the United States, Belgium, Ecuador, and Prussia to Señor Zamacona.

M. le Ministre,

Mexico, le 16 Août, 1861.

L'ENVOYÉ Extraordinaire de France vient de nous informer que le 14 de ce mois à 10 heures du soir, une bande d'une vingtaine de musiciens, accompagnée d'un attroupement populaire, dans lequel se trouvaient plusieurs soldats en uniforme, s'est arrêtée devant la porte de la Légation de France, en poussant les cris de “Mueran los Franceses!” “Muera el Ministro de Francia!” cris qui ont duré dix à quinze minutes, sans que la police se soit présentée pour faire cesser ce désordre et cet outrage public.

En portant ce fait à la connaissance de votre Excellence, nous devons insister sur la nécessité d'une enquête sévère, sur la punition des coupables, et surtout celles des agents de police, qui n'ont rien fait pour réprimer un pareil excès.

Nous devons aussi signaler à votre Excellence un autre fait qui, sans avoir le même caractère de publicité, est plus grave encore et aurait pu avoir des conséquences funestes. Deux heures avant l'attroupement susmentionné, un coup de feu a été tiré sur la personne du Ministre de France pendant qu'il se promenait seul dans la galerie intérieure de son hôtel.

Nous espérons que cette nouvelle tentative d'assassinat mettra enfin un terme à l'insouciance avec laquelle le Gouvernement a paru tolérer jusqu'ici les assassinats d'étrangers, qui se répètent presque journellement sans que les autorités prennent les mesures suffisantes pour leur répression.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé)

THOMAS CORWIN.

E. DE WAGNER.

FRANCO. DE N. PASTOR.

AUGT. KINT DE ROODENBECK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Señor Zamacona to M. de Wagner.

(Translation.)

Government House, Mexico, August 17, 1861.

THE Undersigned receives at this moment, which is 4 in the evening, the note which the Minister of the United States, in conjunction with the Representatives of Prussia, Belgium, and Ecuador, has been pleased to address to him, in which he denounces to him the hostile demonstration which, he says, took place at the door of the French Legation, and the attempt at assassination of which he declares the French Minister to have been the object a little while before.

Notwithstanding all the gravity of those acts, and the publicity which is attributed to one of them, the collective note to which this is a reply has been the first information relative to this matter received by the Undersigned, who certainly deplores profoundly, that in treating of events of such gravity the French Minister should not have employed a more expeditious manner of informing the Government, and thus have enabled it to investigate immediately into the real state of the case, and punish the guilty, if it appeared that there were any. The information has been given to the Government after three days, and in a note drawn up apparently since yesterday.

In order to repair this delay, the Undersigned has immediately transmitted the note which he answers to the Ministry of Justice, in order that a serious judicial investigation may be made concerning the facts which are denounced to him. The Judge to whom this is entrusted will doubtless share the interest felt by the President for the investigation of the truth of what has taken place, and it is to be hoped that the result of this measure will not give occasion for the imputation to be repeated to the Government, that it is indifferent to the personal security of foreigners.

And with reference to this offensive imputation, the Undersigned, on seeing it stated in the note which he answers, has experienced two most bitter impressions: one that is natural to whoever feels himself the object of an unjust reproach, and the other that which is felt in seeing persons generally benevolent and discreet serve as a medium for accusations which perhaps have their origin in ill-will and hasty judgments. It cannot have escaped the perspicacity of Baron de Wagner what superhuman efforts the Mexican Government has made, and is making, for the re-establishment of peace and order, with which will come the remedy for all the evils experienced at the present time, not only by the foreigners resident in the Republic, but also by the Mexicans. But the guardian spirit of the Government is most evident with reference to the former, and in proof thereof could be cited the measures that it has taken in consequence of the attack upon Captain Aldham, of the English navy, and of the assassination of Mr. Beale; measures which, on account of the suspension of relations with the Representative of Great Britain, have not been able to be communicated to him.

In answering with this statement the aforesaid collective note of the Diplomatic Corps, the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

MANUEL MA. DE ZAMACONA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

*M. de Wagner to Señor Zamacona.**Mexico, ce 21 Août, 1861.*

LE Soussigné, Ministre Résident de Prusse, a eu l'honneur de recevoir l'office de son Excellence M. de Zamacona du 17, relatif aux attentats commis à la Légation de France.

Le Soussigné s'est empressé de s'associer à la démarche collective du 16 de ce mois, espérant qu'elle offrirait au Gouvernement Mexicain l'occasion de reprouver hautement ces odieux attentats, et d'en poursuivre les auteurs. L'opinion que le Soussigné et les autres membres du Corps Diplomatique ont énoncée sur l'attitude du Gouvernement Mexicain à l'égard des nombreux assassinats qui se commettent, est basée sur des faits comme ceux qui se trouvent consignés sur la feuille ci-jointe. Cette opinion, qui est très général, se maintiendra tant qu'on se borne à ordonner seulement des enquêtes sans que les malfaiteurs soient, en effet, poursuivis, attrapés, et punis.

Le Soussigné ignore si les crimes énumérés dans l'annexe ont reçu leur châtement. Si les lois et les Juges ne sont pas assez sévères, les facultés extraordinaires du Gouvernement doivent y suppléer ; car si les assassins, les malfaiteurs, et les voleurs de toute espèce restent impunis, les conséquences seront aussi funestes pour les victimes que pour la République.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé)

E. DE WAGNER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 41.

Statement of Outrages committed upon Foreigners in Mexico.

ASSASSINAT du Vice-Consul d'Angleterre, Bodmer, à Tasco.

Ditto du Sieur Richard Rule à Pachuca.

Ditto du Dr. Gibson près d'Acapulco.

Ditto du Sieur Stephen Bennett à Pachuca.

Ditto du Sieur Beale à Napoles.

Ditto de Madame Chaurier entre Pachuca et Mexico.

Attentat avec blessures mortelles contre le Capitaine Aldham.

Ditto du Sieur Rojas contre le Consul Allsopp à Tépéc.

Ditto contre M. Lettsom, Chargé d'Affaires d'Angleterre, près de Tacubaya.

Ditto contre M. Burnaud à Cuajimalpa.

Les auteurs de ces attentats n'ont pas été punis.

Attentat avec blessures mortelles commis dans la Rue de San Juan de Letran, sur M. Charles Wagner, Attaché à la Légation de Prusse.

Attentat contre MM. Brecker, père, fils, et neveu, au moulin de Belen, près de Tacubaya, vols et déprédations.

Attentat et vol commis sur Guillaume Hulvershorn dans la Rue de Capuchinas par trois voleurs à cheval.

Attentat et enlèvement du Sieur Heidlmann près de Cuernavaca.

Attaque de la diligence et vol du Ministre de Prusse près d'Ayotla et du Peñon.

Attaque nocturne contre le brasseur Strütmayer près de l'Alameda.

On ignore le résultat des enquêtes, et si les malfaiteurs ont été punis.

Attentats commis contre des Français en 1861.

Louis Gaudry, marchand tailleur à Mexico, Rue San Francisco, fut assailli par plusieurs bandits devant la porte de son habitation, et blessé d'un coup de poignard, le 20 Janvier, 1861.

François Barateigt, cordonnier à Mexico, fut assailli à 7 heures du soir dans la Rue de la Providence par six hommes. Il fut blessé d'un coup de poignard, puis dépouillé même d'une partie de ses vêtements, 21 Janvier.

Louis Majérus, petit marchand, alors établi à Tacubaya. Ayant eu affaire à Puebla dans la fin de Janvier, il y fut assassiné et dépouillé dans la rue le second jour de son arrivée dans cette ville. La police l'ayant ramassé baigné dans son sang, il supplia les agents de le transporter à son logement, où il se serait fait soigner. La loi, lui répondit-on, exigeait qu'il allât en prison pour être interrogé et de là à l'hôpital. Tandis

que le pauvre blessé était ainsi traîné comme pièce de conviction d'un crime demeuré impuni, la chambre d'auberge dans laquelle il avait laissé ses bagages fut complètement dévalisée, et il a fallu que ses amis de Puebla lui fournissent du linge, des habits, et de l'argent pour se rendre à son domicile.

Ajoutons que le Juge qui fut chargé de l'instruction de cette affaire s'est constamment refusé à remettre à Majérus, ni au Vice-Consul de France, aucun document constatant les faits, notoires à Puebla.

En Février les Sieurs Augustin Coffe et Alexandre Bordemann furent maltraités, blessés et injustement emprisonnés par les autorités de Minatillon. Ces seices durèrent jusqu'au 22 Avril, qu'un bâtiment de guerre vint les prendre pour les mener à Vera Cruz.

Pierre Maurel, hôtelier à Rio Frio, puis au Palmas, sur la route de Puebla, a été deux fois pillé, puis enlevé par des brigands, en Janvier et Avril.

Pierre Lement, assassiné le 11 Mars à Pinar, entre Puebla et Perote, au lieu où deux jours auparavant avait été tué Mr. Yorke.

Louis Mathieu Bonhomme, propriétaire rural, fut assassiné à Velmonte, sur la route de Durango, à dix-huit lieues de cette ville, le 3 Avril.

Alexis Maurice, conducteur de charriots, a été enlevé, maltraité, et plusieurs fois mis à rançon par des brigands en Avril, Juin, et Juillet.

Lucien Fix, administrateur d'une hacienda de M. de la Torre, dans le territoire d'Iturbide, enlevé le 18 Avril par des brigands, et relâché moyennant rançon après des jours de souffrances.

Madame Eugénie Maison, assassiné près Cordova le 12 Mars et décédée le 21 Avril.

Pierre Lacoste, commerçant, assassiné à Rosas, sur la route de Queretaro à Mexico, à dix-huit lieues de la capitale, le 9 Mai.

Auguste Firmin Davesne, maître meunier, assassiné le 18 Mai, dans le moulin du Battant à trois lieues de Mexico. Les assassins, qui furent même reconnus et désignés à la justice, se promènent tranquillement dans le pays, et y gaspillent en paix le produit du crime, car ils ont dû se partager 5,000 à 6,000 piastres.

Benjamin Jaffré, contre-maitre au moulin du Battant, assailli par les brigands qui voulurent tuer Davesne ; il fut blessé à la tête de plusieurs coups de crosse et laissé sans connaissance le 18 Mai. Aujourd'hui guéri de ses blessures.

Jean Baptiste Delaporte, assassiné à Otumbilla, à huit lieues de Mexico, le 2 Août. Les assassins, qui sont parfaitement connus et tous voleurs de profession, n'ont point été inquiétés jusqu'ici.

Louis Guerrier, jeune artisan demeurant à Mexico, fut enlevé dans le village de San Antonio, le 26 Juin. Après avoir été grièvement blessé par les brigands armés qui l'avaient trouvé sur la route, et les avoir péniblement suivis pendant une journée et une nuit, il a pu s'échapper et rejoindre sa famille.

Jean Caire, propriétaire rural, a été enlevé sur sa propriété de Salazar, le 2 Juin. Relâché moyennant rançon.

Louis Acho, fils, enlevé de l'hacienda de son père, près Puebla en Juin. Relâche moyennant \$1,000.

Jaques Londaïs, commerçant, attaqué et blessé par des brigands dans la Rue de San Clara, le 21 Juillet.

Joseph Louis Thinesse, tailleur, dépouillé et roué de coups par des soldats du Gouvernement, à un quart de lieue de Cuernavaca, le 24 Juillet.

Paul Dairo, marchand colporteur, assassiné à Huichilaque à deux lieues de Cuernavaca, le 2 Août.

Jaques Bernard, commerçant, attaqué par quatre soldats dans la Rue de Zuleta, blessé de coups de sabre et volé, le 28 Juillet.

Benoit Deflis, négociant à Temascaltepec, enlevé par des soldats dits prononcés, emprisonné, maltraité de toute façon, et relâché après trois jours de souffrance, et sa maison pillée, le 28 Juillet.

Pierre Duhart, seul employé de la maison Echenique, de Temascaltepec, enlevé et traité comme M. Deflis, et la maison également pillée par les mêmes, le 28 Juillet.

Henri Ilanville, mineur à Temascaltepec, se trouvant absent le 28 Juillet a été pillé.

Adrien Daste, Directeur de Mines, a eu ses chevaux volés.

Auguste Daussart, brasseur, a été attaqué par plusieurs bandits, et a été blessé dans Rue San Francisco, le 11 Août.

Joseph Agand, maître meunier, au moulin del Sacono, commune de Tlalmanalco, près de Chalco. Le 17 Août courant dix hommes de la garde de sûreté de Chalco sont venus demander les écuries du moulin pour l'usage de la petite garnison. Après s'être introduits

dans l'établissement sous ce prétexte, et avoir placé des sentinelles au dehors, ils ont trouvé un autre prétexte pour attirer le Sieur Agand et quelques autres employés dans la chapelle du moulin, où ils les ont enfermés. Après quoi ils ont pillé le moulin, sans oublier les effets personnels du Sieur Agand et des domestiques. Cinq des soldats bandits ont été reconnus par l'Alcalde de Tlalmanalco, qui les a désignés au Préfet, mais inutilement.

Le 18 Août courant, M. Victor Prudhomme, industriel fort inoffensif de Mexico, a été brutalement frappé au visage par un Lieutenant-Colonel qui passa rapidement à côté de lui un pistolet à la main, lançant en même temps l'épithète de "estrangero."

No. 42.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 29.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, August 24, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a Decree issued the night before last by this Government, imposing a tax of 1 per cent. on all capital exceeding 2,000 dollars, to be paid to the Government as follows: one-third on the day following the publication of the Decree, another at the end of eight days, and the remaining third at the expiration of a fortnight. Those persons not complying with these stipulations are to be punished by fines of 50 per cent. on such contribution. Nothing can possibly be more arbitrary or unjust than this, as many persons during the whole of yesterday remained in ignorance that such a Decree had been published and placarded during the night at the corners of two or three of the principal streets of the capital. This tax at first was only to be levied within the district of Mexico, but by an additional Decree published yesterday I hear it is to be levied on the capital, wherever it may be, of all inhabitants of the district whose fortunes may exceed the sum mentioned.

On this being known the British merchants here addressed a letter to me on the subject, which I have the honour to inclose, together with my reply thereto.

Were this principle once admitted the door would be opened to all sorts of illegal exactions on the part of a Government so rapacious and utterly unprincipled as this. Finding that their Decree of the 17th ultimo, suspending the Convention payments, did not produce as much as they expected, they are now determined to obtain funds by forced contributions, for this tax is nothing else under another form. I was glad to find that all my colleagues here took the same view of the case as I did, and recommended their countrymen respectively to resist the payment of this impost, except on compulsion and under protest. Mr. Corwin, the United States' Minister, alone refrained from doing so, and although urged by us, in a meeting which took place to-day at his house, to join the Prussian Minister and the Chargés d'Affaires of Belgium and Ecuador in remonstrating with the Government on the injustice of this measure, we could not persuade him to do so, although he must be aware that had he acted with us this Government would never dare, in their present precarious position, to set at defiance the remonstrances of the whole Corps Diplomatique.

Baron Wagner, the Prussian Minister, yesterday called on Señor Zamacona, and recommended him at once to withdraw the Decree, or not to apply it to foreigners resident here, as he knew that, with the exception of the Americans, they had all been recommended by their Representatives only to pay the tax on compulsion, and under protest.

The Government again urges necessity as their excuse, saying that as the commercial body of Mexico would not advance them the sum of 400,000 dollars a month for their expenses on the guarantee of the Maritime Custom-houses, an offer which they had made, and which had been refused, they had no other alternative but to do what they have done.

If one once acknowledges their right to tax capital for 1 per cent., they may when next in want of money levy 10, 15, or 20 per cent. on it, and thus ruin the whole commercial body here.

Were the money thus obtained spent in restoring order, or in affording protection to the lives and properties of those so taxed, there would be some excuse for so arbitrary a measure, but instead of this, the disorder reigning here becomes every day greater, whilst many of the smaller shopkeepers are utterly bankrupt from the paralyzation of all trade.

Under these circumstances I trust your Lordship will approve of the advice I have given to the English merchants here, and the more so as it is in strict accordance with the instructions issued to my predecessors, when a similar tax was imposed by the former Government.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Decree.

(Traduction.)

LE citoyen Juan José Baz, Gouverneur du District Fédéral, à ses habitants faisons savoir :

Qu'il m'a été adressé, par le Ministère des Finances et du Crédit Public, le Décret suivant :—

Le citoyen Benito Juarez, Président Constitutionnel des Etats-Unis Mexicains, à leurs habitants faisons savoir :

Qu'en vertu des facultés que concède au Gouvernement le Décret du 4 Juin dernier, j'ai décrété ce qui suit :

Article unique.—Il est établi, dans le District, une contribution de un pour cent sur les capitaux qui excèdent \$2,000 ; elle sera payable de la manière suivante, à la Direction Générale des Contributions Directes : un tiers le jour qui suivra la publication du présent Décret, un autre tiers dans les huit jours, et le dernier tiers dans les quinze jours.

De ceux qui ne verseront pas leurs cotes dans les délais exprimés, on les exigera, au moyen de la faculté économique-coactive, avec les surcharges que fixent les lois en vigueur.

Pourquoi j'ordonne, &c.

Donné au Palais National, à Mexico, le 21 Août, 1861.

(Signé) BENITO JUAREZ.

Au Citoyen José H. Nuñez, Secrétaire d'Etat et des Finances et du Crédit Public.

Et je vous le transmets pour son accomplissement.

Dieu et Liberté !

Mexico, le 21 Août, 1861.

(Signé) JOSE H. NUNEZ.

Au Citoyen Gouverneur du District.

Et pour qu'il arrive à la connaissance de tous j'ordonne qu'on l'imprime, qu'on le publie, &c.

Mexico, le 22 Août, 1861.

(Signé) JUAN JOSE BAZ.

JOSE M. DEL CASTILLO VELASCO, *Secrétaire.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Messrs. Graham, Geaves & Co., and others, to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Mexico, August 23, 1861.

WE beg to call your attention to a Decree which has appeared in some of the papers this morning, by which a contribution of 1 per cent. is imposed upon all capitals exceeding 2,000 dollars.

At a time when we had great hopes that reparation would be demanded by Her Majesty's Government for similar exactions under the late Administration, we cannot but express our surprise at the present illegal demand of the Mexican Government ; but we consider that the form of the present Decree may probably be understood to exclude foreigners. You will observe by the annexed copy of the Decree in question, that the 1 per cent. is to be levied in the Federal district only, and does not, therefore, come under the denomination of the general taxation of the country to which we are bound to contribute.

The first payment of one-third of the amount is to be paid in this very day, under the heaviest penalties in case of delay, and we therefore beg that you will favour us with your opinion as to whether we are obliged to contribute to a system of taxation against which so many objections have already been raised by Her Majesty's Legation on previous occasions, and which in the present case appears clearly most unjust, both on account of its partial action, and of the illegal principle, now renewed, of imposing forced loans upon us at the will of Government, under the false name of taxes.

We beg to add that the fixed taxes under a very heavy assessment have already been exacted from us in advance, and are paid up to the 31st of December next. Should the right of Government be now admitted to the present capital tax, our past experience

proves that we are sure to be called upon every few days for further contributions, which, as we all know, are purely required for war purposes.

We have, &c.
(Signed) GRAHAM, GEAVES & Co.
And others.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

Sir C. Wyke to Messrs. Graham, Geaves & Co., and others.

Gentlemen,

Mexico, August 23, 1861.

IN reply to your communication bearing this day's date, asking my opinion as to whether you are obliged to pay the new tax of 1 per cent. on capital, against the principle of which, when similar taxes were formerly levied, Her Majesty's Legation, you say, had protested; I would recommend you only to pay said tax on compulsion and under protest, after duly notifying the same to those persons authorized to levy it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 43.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Mexico, August 26, 1861.

THE question of the British Convention has been brought under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government so frequently, and always, hitherto, as a cause of complaint on the part of those interested in it, that I regret excessively again to recur to the subject.

I am compelled, however, to do so on the present occasion, not only because the Mexican Government have of late publicly attacked the Convention, but because there are certain matters of importance connected with it which require, I consider, some explanation on my part, in order to clear up the doubts which have been and still are entertained with respect to the origin and management of this fund.

Before I proceed to the discussion of this now-complicated question, I would mention that, in order to avoid as much as possible a continued repetition of figures in the body of this despatch, I have had drawn up in the Mission the inclosed memorandum, which I trust may be found useful for purposes of reference, if, at any future period, the Mexican Government or private individuals carry their complaints and accusations directly before the Foreign Office.

I will now endeavour to trace the history of the Convention from its commencement. In 1842 Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico, Mr. Pakenham, concluded a diplomatic arrangement for the payment of certain recognized claims; and in 1851 it was evident that, so far from having carried out this arrangement, the Mexican Government had incurred additional liabilities, which they were equally unable to meet, and which rendered a fresh arrangement of some sort absolutely necessary.

Hence it was that Mr. Doyle, on the 4th of December, 1851, signed the Convention which has given rise to so many and such needless difficulties, and in which were included, as well the claims under the Pakenham Convention as other credits which had been severally recognized by the British and Mexican Governments.

The creditors met at the National Treasury, and, after the usual preliminaries on both sides, it was agreed that the claims, amounting to 4,984,914 dollars, should be treated as a consolidated fund, to be paid off upon the generally-received principles of debtor and creditor, that is to say, the Government obliged themselves to pay interest on this consolidated fund at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, with a sinking fund of 5 per cent.; it being further stipulated that five years after the ratification of the Convention the interest was to be raised to 4 per cent., and the sinking fund to 6 per cent.

For this purpose the Mexican Government were supposed,—I say supposed, for reasons which will hereafter appear,—to mortgage to us 12 per cent. per annum of their entire Customs revenue, upon the condition that if this assignment of 12 per cent. more than sufficed for the interest and sinking fund, the Commissioner appointed by the creditors for receiving their money was to return to the Treasury any surplus, whereas in

the contrary case, the Treasury was to meet any deficit by the first drafts they received from any of their maritime Custom-houses.

The manner in which this 12 per cent. of import duties was mortgaged to us I will explain in its proper place, for it has seriously affected us, and, indeed, may be said to have been the origin of all subsequent troubles.

It so happened, to continue my narrative, that at the end of the first year, *i. e.*, in December of 1852, the stipulated Custom-house assignments were not forthcoming: consequently it became necessary to call upon Government to fulfil their engagements upon this point; and on the 27th of November of the same year a Sub-Convention (copy of which is inclosed herewith as meriting your Lordship's attention), was signed by Mr. Doyle, whereby a further Custom-house assignment of 3 per cent. was set aside solely for paying this deficit, to cease so soon as the deficit was made good.

To all intents and purposes, however, the original assignment of 12 per cent. now became 15 per cent. permanently, because, although this increase of 3 per cent. was originally only meant to cover a particular class of arrears, it never did so: on the contrary, arrears went on accumulating instead of diminishing, more assignments were asked for and granted, and ultimately we were supposed to have mortgaged to us 29 per cent. of import duties, wherewith to satisfy interest and sinking fund, the interest, by an arrangement made by Mr. Otway, having been increased from 4 to 6 per cent., while the sinking fund remained, as stipulated in the Vth Article of the original Convention, at 6 per cent. per annum.

Such is the history of the British Convention; and it will now be my duty to explain, as far as may be, the complications and difficulties which have ensued, and which in many cases could, and most certainly should, have been avoided.

First in the list of complainants come the Government themselves, who were the other Contracting Party to the Doyle Convention, and they begin by attacking the very elements of the Convention, which they allege to be supposititious, and lay especial stress upon the introduction into the arrangement of what are commonly known as the "Tobacco Bonds."

To avoid entering here into a lengthy and unnecessary discussion upon a question which for many years occupied the attention of Her Majesty's Government, I will simply state, though for the sake of reference I beg to inclose a short account of this particular grievance, that Messrs. Martinez del Rio, who are naturalized British subjects, and the present agents of the Convention, became possessors, under a guarantee from the Supreme Government, of certain of these "Tobacco Bonds," to the amount of about 2,500,000 dollars: their tenure thereof had been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government, and when afterwards the Mexican Government, in spite of their guarantee, attempted to dispute the right of tenure, Mr. Doyle received positive instructions from home to support Messrs. Martinez, and to insist upon justice being done to them. A plan of settlement was proposed, but though partly initiated by the Mexican Government, never carried into effect.

This happened in 1849, and it seemed only natural that two years later, what had now assumed the character of a claim, and might almost be said to have formed a Convention of itself, should be admitted into the new compact concluded by Mr. Doyle in 1851.

This is the first objection to the Convention, and I cannot help thinking that it must be looked upon as perfectly groundless.

Next in order follow the complaints raised by certain private individuals who, either after the fashion of a Mr. Grant, one of Convention bondholders, attack the Convention generally, or like Messrs. Bourdillon and Moran (the latter being in no way connected with the Convention of that name to which I shall have occasion to refer), paid agents for claims not included in the Convention, persist in affirming that their clients' interests have been damaged by the illegitimate uses to which the Convention Custom-house assignments have been turned.

In 1852, as your Lordship will have observed, a special increase of 3 per cent. on the Customs revenue was allotted to pay off a particular deficit, with the proviso that it was to cease as soon as the deficit was made good. A Mr. Dalton, whose case has been before the Foreign Office since 1857, had, I believe, obtained from the Mexican Government the reversion of this 3 per cent. whenever it again became Government property, and in 1860, his agents, Messrs. Bourdillon and Moran, did their utmost to procure this reversion, upon the ground that the original object for which the 3 per cent. of import duties was assigned, had long ago been accomplished, and that the Convention had no further right to it.

The Mexican Government were only too glad to seize such an opportunity, and

eagerly acquiesced in the assertion that the 3 per cent. had reverted to them ; upon what plea I cannot say, for, so far from laying any claim to it, they had themselves sanctioned its running on as part and parcel of the Convention Custom-house assignments, had even of their own free-will added a something to it, as will be seen by Article II of Mr. Otway's Convention, which forms inclosure No. 4 of this despatch, and never thought of its reversion until Messrs. Bourdillon and Moran, Mr. Dalton's agents, appeared on the stage in 1860.

Be this, however, as it may, the inclosed document will, I feel assured, set the matter to rights ; for thereby and subsequent, be it remarked, to the application of Mr. Dalton's agents, it becomes evident that this person could in no way interfere with the British Convention, and, indeed, I know that he himself had proposed to the Mexican Government a new arrangement for the payment of what was owing to him.

At any rate, however, our priority of claim to this said 3 per cent. cannot be questioned, for it is proved (Memorandum, Paper D), that notwithstanding the gradual, though in reality merely nominal, increase of our Custom-house assignments from 12 to 29 per cent., not even the original assignment of 12 per cent. has ever yet been paid up.

If, then, we have never received in full the first assignment of all, it surely cannot be illogical to infer that we have not obtained anything over and above that first assignment, and consequently that, inasmuch as the above-mentioned additional assignment has never yet been paid, it cannot possibly have fulfilled the object for which it was granted.

There is one point which both the Mexican Government and these private individuals appear to have overlooked, when attacking the Convention ; they do not remember that, be the elements of a Convention or Compact what they may, they cannot suffer change for good or bad, when once that Convention or Compact has been ratified, unless it be with the full consent of both Contracting Parties ; and it ill becomes any Englishman, especially at the present moment, to attempt to overthrow a diplomatic arrangement which had obtained the sanction and support of his Government, and when the very stipulations thereof compensate him, as in the case of Mr. Grant, for losses which would never have been made good to him but for the intervention of Her Majesty's Legation.

I now come to the real and most serious difficulty connected with this Convention, and would that its solution were simpler ; yet I am at a loss to conceive how the actual error which led to this difficulty escaped the observation of my predecessors, or was allowed to be perpetuated up to the present date by the very agents of the fund, whose duty it most certainly was to have had it rectified.

It so happened that two days after the ratification of Mr. Doyle's Convention, *i.e.*, on the 6th of December, 1851, Señor Sayas, the Spanish Minister at Mexico, signed on behalf of some of his countrymen a Convention almost identical with our own : the interest on the debt thereby recognized was the same, the sinking fund the same, and it was equally stipulated in both Conventions that a certain Government order, which was to authorize the Custom-house to set aside the proper proportion of Custom-house assignments for the payment of the said interest and sinking fund, "should be considered as having been inserted in and as forming part" of the Convention for which it was intended.

The Sayas, or, as it is generally called, the Padre Moran Convention, was only for a sum of 983,000 dollars ; whereas, as I have already stated, ours represented 4,984,914 dollars : yet, strange to say, the Government Order, which was to be looked upon as quite as sacred as any part of either Convention, was one and the same in each case. This Order shall, however, speak for itself ; and your Lordship will observe that the 12 per cent. of import duties, which, as I stated above, was supposed to have been mortgaged to us, is by the Order set aside for the purpose of satisfying the conditions of both the Padre Moran and the British Conventions ; no division of the 12 per cent. is made therein, no proper proportion thereof is defined, the 12 per cent. stands there as much the property of the one as of the other Convention.

Now, even supposing, for the sake of argument, that the Mexican Government had intended there should be but one Order, and that 12 per cent. of the import duties was to suffice for paying the interest and sinking fund of both Conventions, one might have expected to discover in the Order some clear definition of the proportion that the 12 per cent. was to bear to each Convention.

It was, however, otherwise ; and the consequence is that our own and the Spanish Convention have, as it were, been merged into one. The agencies of the two Conventions, which once were separate, have ceased to be so ; Messrs. Martinez del Rio from the very beginning were recognized as the sole agents for both, though, in point of fact, that of Padre Moran, as a Spanish Convention, became a dead letter, and, to all intents and

purposes, might as well have never existed, since all applications to this Legation for support and protection have been made by Messrs. Martinez del Rio in their capacity of agents for the British Convention.

Up till now we have been allowed to slumber on in the full assurance that the original, as well as every additional, Custom-house assignment was ours. Such, however, has not been the case; from 1851 to 1860 Her Majesty's Government, this Legation, and British ships of war, have been labouring on behalf not only of British, but of Spanish interests, for out of every assignment we have received, with the exception of that obtained by Captain Aldham, a sixth part has regularly been handed over by Messrs. Martinez del Rio to the sister Convention, while no violation of contract has ever taken place; but we, and we alone, have been appealed to by them for redress, and it was not until early in 1861 that Messrs. Martinez del Rio breathed a word that could imply the fact of their having thus practically and systematically amalgamated the two Conventions. Why, or wherefore, they should have made an exception to their general line of conduct in the case of the Aldham Convention, I am unable to say. It is sufficient that they did so, and it appears to me that the letter, copy of which I herewith inclose, addressed by them to Mr. Mathew, in reference to this subject, is proof enough that a doubt must always have existed in their minds as to the propriety of claiming British protection for a Convention with which we had nothing in the world to do.

It is useless for these gentlemen to assert that in issuing one order the Mexican Government intended the two Conventions to draw from one and the same fund, that the proportion of the Custom-house assignments to those Conventions was naturally in the ratio of the two debts, and that consequently their conduct can be justified.

If such, indeed, was the intention of the Mexican Government, surely it could not also have been their intention to make one Convention responsible for what belonged to another Convention, and that other Convention of a totally different nationality. This would have been absurd, and I fear, therefore, that but one construction can be put upon the whole affair; the order on the Custom-houses was simply a piece of trickery on the part of the Mexican Government, nobody took the trouble to counteract it, and we alone have been the dupes to our own prejudice, but to the profit of others.

There is one fact which cannot be disputed. A certain order, the very essence, if I may use the expression, of both Conventions, but which does not exist at the time of ratification, becomes by anticipation an actual part of both. By that order, not a separate one, be it remarked, for each Convention, 12 per cent. of import duties is to be set apart for satisfying the demands of both Conventions; consequently there enters an idea of partition, the entire 12 per cent. being the sole property of neither Convention: we, therefore, have no right to the whole, nor has the Spanish Convention any right to it, but we have been made responsible for the whole, and our agents have applied to us for protection when the whole was not given to us; moreover, Mr. Doyle in his Sub-Convention states positively that the whole is ours in virtue of the actual Convention, while the actual Convention proves it is not ours by Article IV, for that Article and the original Custom-house orders are, I might almost say, synonymous terms, and the latter distinctly states that it is not ours.

The 12 per cent. of import duties then is ours, and is not ours: it is ours, because we have claimed it and our claim has not been questioned; it is not ours, because whenever it has been obtained a sixth part has always been taken away from us.

It is now perhaps too late to remedy the evil that has been done, but henceforward it will be our fault if Spain does not look after Spanish and England after English interests, whenever the moment arrives for reinstating the Conventions in the position they lost through the Government Decree of the 17th ultimo, which amongst other payments suspended those belonging to Diplomatic arrangements.

Far be it from me to make any direct accusation against those who have been principally to blame in this matter, but I cannot acquit Messrs. Martinez del Rio of great and culpable negligence. As agents of the British Convention fund they ought to have known that whatever may have been the object of the Mexican Government in issuing but one Custom-house order for two Conventions, it never could have been intended that the British Legation alone was to see that order carried out, to the prejudice of its own and the profit of Spanish interests; it was their bounden duty to have called the attention of the Legation to the existing state of affairs, and they left that duty undone.

I need not, of course, assure your Lordship that in thus accusing Messrs. Martinez del Rio of great negligence, I have no intention or wish whatever to cast a slur upon their character as honourable men; still I feel that, in the interests of all parties concerned, it would be much better, for obvious reasons, to place the agency in other

hands; and I do not think I can recommend to your Lordship a better or fitter person to succeed Messrs. Martinez del Rio than Mr. Consul Glennie, who is now auditor of the fund, and who, I feel sure, has the esteem of all those who are connected therewith. It appears to me, too, that it would be more becoming for the Convention to have its agency in our Consulate, and I cannot help thinking that such an appointment as the one I have now the honour of proposing to your Lordship would tend greatly to diminish the existing causes of complaint.

I have only now further to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that there are but few Englishmen holders of Convention stock at the present time; it has passed on 'Change into other hands, principally Mexican, and I have, for purposes of reference, accompanied my Memorandum on the Convention with a list of those who were bondholders when the first dividend took place, as well as of those who are now holders of Convention stock; and it is worthy of remark, that even during the first six months after the ratification of the Doyle-Compact, bonds were eagerly bought up in the money-market, so great was at that time the confidence inspired by an agreement for the due fulfilment of which Great Britain was supposed to be a responsible party.

Such, my Lord, is the account of the British Convention, past and present; its length may, perhaps, seem to require some apology on my part. Had I, however, curtailed it, I much fear I should have failed in the original object I had in view, and that so far from being useful at a future period for reference, this despatch and its inclosures would merely have added to the difficulties connected with the Convention.

While, then, I sincerely trust that, in its present state, this will not be found to be the case, may I request your Lordship, should my proposals meet with your approbation, to be good enough to send me such instructions as will admit of immediate action, not only as regards the future agency of the British Convention, but also as regards the restoration of the Spanish Convention to the protection of its rightful owners?

Everything connected with the so-called British Convention has got into such a tangle of confusion, that it would have been impossible for me to have understood the actual state of the case without the assistance of Mr. Walsham, whose experience here, joined to the untiring assiduity he has displayed in elucidating the whole question, and putting the numerous inclosures of this despatch into proper order, have been of the greatest service in enabling me to transmit a statement which I hope may hereafter prove useful for reference, whenever the subject of this Convention and its numerous complications shall again be brought under the notice of the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Memorandum on the British Convention.

ON the 15th of October, 1842, Mr. Pakenham signed a Convention with the Mexican Government, in which it was stipulated that certain recognized claims, amounting to about 250,000 dollars, should be formed into a Consolidated Fund, to be paid off, capital and interest, by a per-centage on the import duties at the maritime Custom-houses of Vera Cruz and Tampico.

This Convention was not carried out by the Mexican Government; and on the 4th of December, 1851, Mr. Doyle signed a fresh one, in which not only the claims under the Pakenham Convention (see annexed Paper A), but others, which had been recognized by both the English and Mexican Governments, and had indeed formed separate Diplomatic arrangements, were included (see Papers B and C).

By Mr. Doyle's Convention the claims, amounting to 4,984,914 dollars, were likewise formed into a Consolidated Fund, the Mexican Government obliging itself to pay thereupon 5 per cent. as sinking fund, and 3 per cent. as interest, until the debt should be paid off.

To meet this 5 per cent. and 3 per cent., it was agreed that a certain portion of the annual Customs revenue should be set apart, and half-yearly dividends take place; and it was further stipulated that in 1857 the sinking fund should be raised to 6 per cent. and the interest to 4 per cent.

Now it so happened, that two days after Mr. Doyle had signed his Convention, Señor Sayas, Spanish Minister in Mexico, also signed a Convention on behalf of some Philippine missionaries, which is generally known as the "Padre Moran" Convention, and which, singularly enough, was made upon exactly the same bases as our own. Its Consolidated Fund was 983,090 dollars, the sinking fund 5 per cent., and the interest 3 per cent.

This 5 per cent. and 3 per cent. were to be increased respectively to 6 per cent. and 4 per cent. at a stated period, and to be satisfied, as in our case, by yearly Custom-house assignments, whenever it could be found out what amount of assignments would be necessary.

Instead, however, of fixing this amount at the time of ratification, the Mexican Government only did so some two months afterwards by a Custom-house order setting apart 12 per cent. of import duties for paying the sinking fund and interest of both Conventions, but unfortunately without specifying in what proportion this 12 per cent. was to be made.

At first each Convention had its own agent in Mexico, but later on Messrs. Martinez del Rio, naturalized British subjects, took charge of both, and from that time it would seem the Padre Moran Convention lost its nationality; for we, though until now unaware of the fact, have always collected its portion of Custom-house assignments, as will hereafter appear.

The original Custom-house assignment for both Conventions was 12 per cent. At the end of 1852 it had not been paid, and to meet the deficit the Mexican Government assigned an additional 3 per cent. until it should be made good; but this 3 per cent. had simply reference to the English part of the deficit, as appears from Mr. Doyle's Sub-Convention (forming Inclosure No. 3 in the despatch), for there is no evidence that any steps were taken in this direction by the Spanish Representative; yet as Messrs. Martinez del Rio had previously, on their own responsibility, apportioned to the Padre Moran Convention a sixth part of what the Custom-house did pay in 1852, so also they now made over a sixth part of the additional 3 per cent.

In 1852, therefore, the state of the Conventions was,—

British Convention.—Sinking-fund 5 per cent., interest 3 per cent., Custom-house assignment 12 per cent. and 3 per cent. (for arrears).

Padre Moran Convention.—Sinking fund 5 per cent., interest 3 per cent., Custom-house assignment 12 per cent., and 3 per cent. (for arrears).

In 1857, the interest and sinking fund of both Conventions became, as originally stipulated therein—sinking fund 6 per cent., interest 4 per cent.; the only difference in the Custom-house assignment being, that the 3 per cent. originally intended to pay off a particular class of arrears, was now merged into the body of assignments, which therefore stood at 15 per cent.

In 1858 the Mexican Government, apparently of their own free will, increased this 15 per cent. to 16 per cent, and Mr. Otway, in the same year, had the interest of the British Convention raised to 6 per cent.

Thus at this period, the following was the progress made in both Conventions:—

British Convention.—Sinking fund 6 per cent., interest 6 per cent., Custom-house assignment 16 per cent.

Padre Moran Convention.—Sinking fund 6 per cent., interest 4 per cent., Custom-house assignment, 16 per cent.

In 1859 the arrears on the sinking fund had accumulated to 1,800,000 dollars, and it was then that Captain Dunlop, senior naval officer in the Gulf of Mexico, obtained an additional 8 per cent. of import duties; and in 1860, when the Custom-houses of Vera Cruz and Tampico had seized assignments to the amount of 350,000 dollars, Captain Aldham, who had succeeded Captain Dunlop, made a further convention, by which 5 per cent. more of import duties was to be set aside, though only in the Custom-houses of Vera Cruz and Tampico. Both the 8 per cent. of Captain Dunlop and the 5 per cent. of Captain Aldham were to cease as soon as they had respectively satisfied the 1,800,000 dollars arrears, and 350,000 dollars ("occupation") above referred to. It is certain that Captain Aldham's 5 per cent. was upon all import duties from all vessels at the ports of Vera Cruz and Tampico. The 8 per cent. however of Captain Dunlop would appear to refer to the Custom-houses generally, and to have been upon all import duties from all except French, vessels.

Both the 8 per cent. and the 5 per cent. were solely for the specific object above referred to, and were to cease directly that object was attained, so that the regular Custom-house assignment upon all import duties from all vessels was, as has been stated, only 16 per cent.; and yet if the statement (see paper D) made by Messrs Martinez del Rio be correct, even the original assignment of 12 per cent. has never been paid, much less that of 16 per cent.

Between 1852 and 1861 the proper amount of interest had been paid upon the Consolidated Fund of the British Convention, viz., 1,744,604 dollars 14 cents, and nearly the proper amount of interest upon the Consolidated Fund of the Padre Moran Convention, viz., 320,197 dollars 99 cents, instead of 344,961 dollars 59 cents (see papers

E and F), whereas the Sinking Fund of the two Conventions, which during the same period stand at 2,592,155 dollars British Convention, 511,160 dollars Padre Moran Convention, have only respectively been paid 810,634 dollars, and 157,280 dollars. Of course Convention stock has frequently changed hands in the money-market, and this will account for so many of the present holders of bonds being foreigners (see paper G).

TABLE showing the various changes which have taken place in the British and Padre Moran Conventions between 1851 and 1860.

Sinking Fund and Interest to be paid to British Convention:	Custom-house Assignments to satisfy both Conventions.	Sinking Fund and Interest under Padre Moran's Convention.
Mr. Doyle's Convention:—		
1851. Sinking Fund, 5 per cent. Interest, 3 per cent.	12 per cent.	{ Sinking Fund, 5 per cent. Interest, 3 per cent.
1852. Sinking Fund, 5 per cent. Interest, 3 per cent.	12 per cent. and 3 per cent. (arrears)	{ Sinking Fund, 5 per cent. Interest, 3 per cent.
1857. Sinking Fund, 6 per cent. Interest, 4 per cent.	15 per cent.	{ Sinking Fund, 6 per cent. Interest, 4 per cent.
Mr. Otway's Convention:—		
1858. Sinking Fund, 6 per cent. Interest, 6 per cent.	16 per cent.	{ Sinking Fund, 6 per cent. Interest, 4 per cent.
Captain Dunlop's Convention:—		
1859. Sinking Fund, 6 per cent. Interest, 6 per cent.	24 per cent.	{ Sinking Fund, 6 per cent. Interest, 4 per cent.
Captain Aldham's Convention:—		
1860. Sinking Fund, 6 per cent. Interest, 6 per cent.	29 per cent.	{ Ceased to participate in extra assignments.

Mexico, August 20, 1861.

(A.)

Pakenham Convention, Agent P. de Ansoategui; concluded by Mr. Pakenham, on the 15th October, 1842, with the consent and approbation of both the British and Mexican Governments, as is proved by the despatches marked in the margin.

	Dollars.	c.
Original capital	287,412	9
Interest to November 30, 1850	160,804	45
	448,216	54
Amount paid off to same date	291,654	95
Balance included in Doyle Convention	156,561	59

Parties representing Pakenham Convention.

	Dollars.	c.		Dollars.	c.
Jecker, Torre and Co.	67,246	59	Domingo de Ansoategui	4,067	70
Manning and McIntosh	52,573	71	G. J. Martinez del Rio	250	00
Viuda Echeverria é hijos	27,813	57	Bates Jamison and Co.	1,600	00
Drusina and Co.	13,717	27	El J. Perry	3,862	75
J. J. de Rozas	12,203	12	Ernesto Masson, for G. and J. Campbell	500	00
Aguero Gonzalez and Co.	13,850	56	Thomas H. Werrall	350	00
Alexander Grant	54,483	3			
C. A. Fornachon	2,332	00		287,412	9
Martinez del Rio; Brothers	32,561	79			

(B.)

Diplomatic arrangement commenced on behalf of Messrs. Montgomery, Nicod and Co., by Mr. Pakenham, continued by Mr. Doyle in 1843-44, and concluded by Mr. Bankhead in 1844.

	Dollars.	c.
Amount of capital on January 1, 1843	1,036,489	25
Paid as "refaccion," on May 27 and September 23	112,980	00
	1,149,469	25
Interest up to December 3, 1851	845,743	70
	1,995,212	95
Amount received up to same date	842,491	77
Balance included in Doyle Convention	1,152,721	18

Parties interested in above arrangement.

	Dollars	c.		Dollars	c.
Martinez del Rio, Brothers	563,127	22	W. Mackintosh	3,000	00
Stephen Miller	11,402	67	M. Mead	119,728	2
D. Manterola, for Echeverria	22,748	4	M. Moreda	22,805	34
C. de Luchet	65,427	11	J. B. Jecker	02,624	2
B. Maqua	121,878	81			
Frederick Montgomery	116,728	2		1,149,469	25

(C.)

Diplomatic arrangement concluded by Mr. Doyle with the Mexican Government in 1849, on behalf of Messrs. Martinez del Rio, Agents at that time for what was known as the "Tobacco claims."

Liquidated up to 3rd December, 1851.

	Dollars	c.	Dollars	c.
Amount of "Tobacco Bonds,"	2,745,000	00		
Amount of "Interior Debt" Bonds	717,000	00		
Amount received			3,462,000	00
Capital unpaid on December 31, 1851*			384,000	00
Due for interest to same date	601,727	91		
Less received from the Treasury	4,095	84		
			597,632	07
Balance included in Doyle Convention			3,675,632	07

* Parties interested in the above arrangement.

	Dollars	c.		Dollars	c.
Martinez del Rio, Brothers	1,003,348	97	Manuel Escandon	156,749	65
J. S. Bengough	251,899	3	Viuda de Echeverria	138,158	25
J. A. de Bertegui	841,122	61	F. Fagoaga	74,627	32
Benito Maqua	354,053	55	Aguero Gonzalez y Ca.	43,005	47
Muriel, Brothers	155,974	87	J. Rodriguez de S. Miguel for Madame		
Edward J. Perry	31,837	33	Arismendi	8,601	10
Rafael Beraza	18,621	85			
				3,078,000	00

(D.)

Statement of the amount received from all the Custom-houses on Account of the Convention Fund, from 1852 to 1859.

	Dollars	c.		Dollars	c.
1852	261,914	24	1857	104,087	25
1853	406,198	26	1858	130,593	16
1854	540,514	26	1859	420,149	87
1855	343,107	52			
1856	301,917	5		2,508,481	6

The annual estimated produce of the import duties is from 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 dollars; but even taking the very low figure of 5,000,000 dollars, it will be seen that in no one year has the original assignment of 12 per cent. been paid.

(E.)

BRITISH CONVENTION, Original Capital, 4,984,914 dollars 84 cen s.

		Sums that ought to have been paid on account of				Sums actually paid on account of	
		Capital.	Interest.			Capital.	Interest.
		Dollars c.	Dollars c.			Dollars c.	Dollars c.
1852	June 4 ..	124,622 87	74 773 72	1852	July 31 ..	..	74,773 72
"	December 4 ..	124,622 87	74,773 72	"	December 4 ..	60,084 84	74,773 72
1853	June 4 ..	124,622 87	73,872 45	1853	September 5 ..	..	73,872 45
"	December 4 ..	124,622 87	73,872 45	"	December 30 ..	175,939 5	73,872 45
1854	June 4 ..	124,622 87	71,233 37	1854	June 5 ..	..	71 233 37
"	December 4 ..	124,622 87	71,233 37	"	December 28 ..	300,839 61	71,233 37
1855	June 4 ..	124,622 87	66,720 77	1855	June 15 ..	124,622 87	66,720 77
"	December 4 ..	124,622 87	64,851 43	"	December 20 ..	..	64,851 43
1856	June 4 ..	124,622 87	64,851 43	1856	July 12 ..	..	64,851 43
"	December 4 ..	124,622 87	64,851 43	"	December 27 ..	149,148 47	64,851 43
1857	June 4 ..	149,547 45	83,485 60	1858	January 25 ..	..	83,485 60
"	December 4 ..	149,547 45	83,485 60	"	May 20 ..	..	83,485 60
1858	June 4 ..	149,547 45	125,228 40	1859	May 12 ..	..	125,228 40
"	December 4 ..	149,547 45	125,228 40	"	September 14 ..	..	125,228 40
1859	June 4 ..	149,547 45	125,228 40	1860	January 5 ..	..	125,228 40
"	December 4 ..	149,547 45	125,228 40	"	April 12 ..	..	125,228 40
1860	June 4 ..	149,547 45	125,228 40	"	July 16 ..	..	125,228 40
"	December 4 ..	149,547 45	125,228 40	1861	May 1 ..	..	125,228 40
1861	June 4 ..	149,547 45	125,228 40	"	July 12 ..	..	125,228 40
		2,592,155 75	1,744,604 14			810,634 84	1,744,604 14

(F.)

PADRE MORAN'S CONVENTION, Original Capital, 983,000 dollars.

		Sums which ought to have been paid on account of				Sums actually paid on account of	
		Capital.	Interest.			Capital.	Interest.
		Dollars c.	Dollars c.			Dollars c.	Dollars c.
1852	June 4 ..	24,575 0	14,745 0	1852	July 31 ..	..	14,745 0
"	December 4 ..	24,575 0	14,745 0	"	December 4 ..	9,830 0	14,745 0
1853	June 4 ..	24,575 0	14,597 55	1853	September 5 ..	..	14,597 55
"	December 4 ..	24,575 0	14,597 55	"	December 30 ..	34,060 95	14,597 55
1854	June 4 ..	24,575 0	14,086 63	1854	June 5 ..	..	14 086 63
"	December 4 ..	24,575 0	14,086 63	"	December 28 ..	59,324 5	14,086 63
1855	June 4 ..	24,575 0	13,196 78	1855	June 15 ..	24,575 0	13,196 78
"	December 4 ..	24,575 0	12,828 15	"	December 20 ..	..	12,828 15
1856	June 4 ..	24,575 0	12,828 15	1856	July 12 ..	..	12,828 15
"	December 4 ..	24,575 0	12,828 15	"	December 27 ..	29,490 0	12,828 15
1857	June 4 ..	29,490 0	16,514 40	1858	January 25 ..	..	16,514 40
"	December 4 ..	29,490 0	16,514 40	"	May 20 ..	..	16,514 40
1858	June 4 ..	29,490 0	24,771 60	"	May 12 ..	..	24,771 60
"	December 4 ..	29,490 0	24,771 60	"	September 14 ..	..	24,771 60
1859	June 4 ..	29,490 0	24,771 60	1860	January 5 ..	..	24,771 60
"	December 4 ..	29,490 0	24,771 60	"	April 12 ..	..	24,771 60
1860	June 4 ..	29,490 0	24,771 60	"	July 16 ..	..	24,771 60
"	December 4 ..	29,490 0	24,771 60	1861	May 1 ..	..	24,771 60
1861	June 4 ..	29,490 0	24,771 60			157,280 0	320,197 99
		511,160 0	344,969 59				

(G.)

CONVENCION INGLESA, 1o Dividendo, Julio 31 de 1852.

Interesados.	Capital.	Interesados.	Capital.
	Dollars c.		Dollars c.
Martinez del Rio Hermanos.. ..	1,670,000 00	Schmidt, Higson y Ca.	13,000 00
G. J. Martinez del Rio	15,000 00	C. Whitehead	7,000 00
J. P. Martinez del Rio	12,000 00	J. Rodriguez de S. Miguel	10,000 00
E. J. Perry	51,000 00	J. J. de Rosas	7,000 00
Alejandro Grant	97,000 00	C. G. Kauffmann	6,000 00
Rafael Beraza	22,000 00	Benjamin Laurent. . . .	5,000 00
	1,867,000 00	Concurso de Guillermo de Drusina y	
J. A. de Beistegui.. ..	1,006,000 00	Ca.	3,000 00
B. De Macua	546,000 00	C. A. Fornachon	2,000 00
J. S. Bengough	301,000 00	Manning y Mackintosh	2,000 00
Manuel Escandon.. ..	187,000 00	Bates, Jamison, y Ca.	914 84
Muriel Hermanos	186,000 00		
Viuda de Echeverria é hijos.. ..	182,000 00	Convencion Inglesa	4,984,914 84
J. B. Echave, por Testamentaria de			
D. Manterola	129,000 00	Convencion Española (names not given)	988,000 00
J. B. Echave, por Testamentaria de			
J. M. Echeverria	23,000 00		
McCalmont Geaves y Ca., Testamen-		Names of Proprietors, or Agents, given	
taria de F. Montgomery	117,000 00	in the account of the 2nd Dividend of	
McCalmont Geaves y Ca., por la Com-		the Spanish Convention, made on 4th	
pañia Unida	9,000 00	December, 1852.	
J. B. Jecker	103,000 00	M. J. de Lizardi	368,625 00
Jecker, Torre, y Ca., por C. de Luchet.	65,000 00	Cayetano Rubio	245,750 00
Id. id. Gme. Cochran	28,000 00	McCalmont Geaves, & Ca., por M. de	
Id. id. M. Moreda	22,000 00	Embil y Ca.	184,312 50
Id. id. Estevan Miller	11,000 00	Jecker, Torre, y Ca.	184,312 50
J. M. Flores, Testamentaria de F. Fagoaga	90,000 00		
Agüero Gonzales y Ca.	57,000 00		983,000 00

CONVENCION INGLESA, 19o Dividendo, Julio 12 de 1861.

Interesados.	Capital.	Interesados.	Capital.
	Dollars c.		Dollars c.
Martinez del Rio Hermanos.. ..	417,876 63	J. J. Schmidt y Ca., por Schmidt,	
E. J. Perry	50,880 00	Higson, y Ca.	10,920 00
José de Ansoategui.	45,254 66	Teodore Chavez	46,551 73
	514,011 29	Manuel Hernandez.	38,000 00
Carlos Byrn	1,117,698 94	Jorge S. Whitehead	36,666 62
Hermenegildo de Viya	50,000 00	C. y J. Whitehead.. ..	3,242 23
Id. por Viya Hermanos	97,103 45	J. B. Jeckery Ca., por Guillermo Cochran	23,520 00
Id. por Francisco Giffard.. ..	200,603 46	Id. por Estevan Miller	9,240 00
Id. por Rafael Beraza	18,480 00	Francisco Colina	30,000 00
Id. por J. de Muñoz y Muñoz	5,793 10	Juan Antonio de Beistegui	25,000 00
Francisco G. de Luzarraga	368,000 00	Juan Antonio de Beistegui por Testamen-	
Francisco Morphy.. ..	206,724 14	taria de Azurmendi	3,754 19
Graham Geaves y Ca.	88,908 89	J. Velasquez de Leon	26,827 59
Id. por F. Montgomery	98,280 00	José C. Murphy	24,512 81
Antonio M. Priani	170,000 00	G. R. Glennie	14,600 00
J. B. Echave	20,000 00	P. Echeverria, por Menores Echeverria.	12,432 00
Id. por Testamentaria de D.		A. Pamanes	9,793 10
Manterola	108,360 00	C. G. Kauffman	8,400 00
Id. por J. M. Echeverria	19,320 00	J. Rodriguez de San Miguel	8,400 00
Viuda de Echeverria é hijos.. ..	120,103 02	J. J. de Rosas	5,880 00
N. Davidson	100,000 00	J. M. Landa, por E. Mugaburu	1,383 61
Manuel Soriano	100,000 00		
Alejandro Grant	100,000 00	Convencion Inglesa	4,174,280 00
Agüero Gonzales y Ca.	38,880 00	CONVENCION ESPANOLA—	
Miguel Buch	50,000 00	Carlos Byrn	309,645 00
Francisco Buch	10,000 00	Francisco J. de Luzarraga	254,822 50
Raymundo Mora	69,613 98	Juan Antonio de Beistegui	154,822 50
Martin Carrera	68,275 86	Miguel Bringas.. ..	103,240 22
Manuel M. Rubio.. ..	55,600 00	Francisco Morphy	3,189 78
Benjamin Barton	43,000 00		
			825,720 00

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

The Pakenham Convention, signed October 15, 1842.

WHEREAS it is expedient that a definite arrangement be concluded for the payment of certain sums acknowledged to be due by the Mexican Government to subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, the discharge of which has, in some cases in the whole, and in others in part, been hitherto prevented by unforeseen circumstances, the Government of the Mexican Republic have, from a desire to meet the wishes of that of Great Britain, consented to conclude with Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary a formal agreement for the above purpose: wherefore the Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, having met in formal Conference, by previous appointment, in the office of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of that Department and the Minister of Finance, they have agreed to the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

Of the import duties accruing at the ports of Vera Cruz and Tampico from and after the date of the present Agreement, there shall be set apart two per cent. in the former and one per cent. in the latter port, to be applied to the payment of the sums acknowledged to be due up to this date to British subjects. The proceeds of these appropriations shall be paid over to the agent of the parties interested in them, to be distributed in proportion to their respective credits.

The duties already disposed of by the Government in their whole amount previously to the date of this Agreement are not included in these appropriations, it being understood that the portion of the duties assigned by the present Article shall not henceforward be disposed of for any other object.

ARTICLE II.

Such of the said credits as have hitherto gained interest by virtue of pre-existing Agreements shall continue to gain interest at the rate in each case stipulated; and such as have not hitherto been entitled to interest shall hereafter be entitled to it at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum.

ARTICLE III.

It is moreover agreed that the interest accruing up to this date, and not yet discharged, shall be computed and added to the respective capitals; and this new

POR cuanto es conveniente que se concluya un arreglo definitivo para el pago de ciertas cantidades reconocidas por el Gobierno Mexicano á favor de varios súbditos de Su Magestad Británica, cuyo pago, en algunos casos en la totalidad, y en otros en parte, no ha podido hasta ahora verificarse por circunstancias imprevistas, el Gobierno de la República Mexicana, dispuesto de conformarse con los deseos del de la Gran Bretaña, ha convenido en concluir con el Ministro Plenipotenciario de Su Magestad un Convenio formal para el objeto indicado: á cuyo fin, reunidos en Conferencia formal citada previamente en el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Gobernacion, los infrascritos Ministros del citado ramo y del de Hacienda, con el espresado Ministro Plenipotenciario de Su Magestad Británica, han convenido en los Artículos siguientes:—

ARTICULO I.

De los productos de los derechos de importacion que se causaren en los puertos de Vera Cruz y Tampico, desde la fecha del presente Convenio en adelante, se separará un dos por ciento en el primero, y el uno por ciento en el segundo, que se aplicará al pago de las cantidades reconocidas hasta el dia á favor de súbditos Británicos. Los productos de estas asignaciones se entregarán al agente que designen los interesados en ellas, para que las distribuya en justa *prorata* con proporcion al monto de los credits que representen.

No se comprenden en estas asignaciones los derechos de que en totalidad haya dispuesto el Gobierno con anterioridad á la fecha de este Convenio, entendiendose que en lo sucesivo no se dispondrá para otro objeto de la parte de derechos consignada por el presente Artículo.

ARTICULO II.

Los credits que hasta el dia han ganado interes á virtud de Convenios pre-existentes, seguirán gozandalo segun la cuota estipulada en cada caso; y los que hasta ahora no lo han disfrutado, tendrá derecho á el á razon de un doce por ciento anual.

ARTICULO III.

Se conviene ademas que los intereses vencidos hasta esta fecha, que no han sido satisfechos, se liquidarán y agregarán al capital respectivo, y este nuevo capital dis-

capital shall be entitled to interest at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum up to the date of its discharge.

ARTICLE IV.

In order to prevent any doubt or misapprehension as to the description of credits to be entitled to the benefit of the present Agreement, it is declared that its application shall extend only to such credits as have been acknowledged by the Mexican Government through the interference of the British Mission, including the sums exacted from time to time from the subjects of Her Majesty under the head of forced loans.

ARTICLE V.

It is formally declared by the Parties to this Agreement that it shall be considered as having the same force and effect, and being equally binding, as a Convention between the two Governments.

In witness whereof we, the Ministers aforesaid, have signed it, and sealed it with our respective seals.

Done at Mexico, this fifteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two.

(L.S.) R. PAKENHAM.
(L.S.) J. M. DE BOCANEGRA.
(L.S.) G. INGUERAS.

frutará tambien del beneficio del doce por ciento de interes anual hasta su pago.

ARTICULO IV.

En obvio de cualquiera duda ó mala inteligencia en cuanto á la clase de credits que han de disfrutar de las ventajas del presente Convenio, se declara que ellas se aplicarán solamente á los credits que han sido reconocidos por el Gobierno de Mexico á solicitud de la Legacion Británica, entre los que comprenden las cantidades exigidas en diversas épocas á súbditos de Su Magestad en clase de prestamos forzosos.

ARTICULO V.

Se declara solemnemente por ambas Partes que el presente Convenio se considerará de la misma fuerza y valor que una Convencion entre los dos Gobiernos, y que será igualmente obligatorio.

En fé de lo cual los espresados Ministros lo firmamos, y sellamos con nuestros sellos respectivos.

Fecho en Mexico, á quince de Octubre, de mil ochocientos cuarenta y dos.

(L.S.) J. M. DE BOCANEGRA.
(L.S.) G. INGUERAS.
(L.S.) R. PAKENHAM.

Inclósure 3 in No. 43.

Sub-Convention, signed by Mr. Doyle, November 27, 1852.

IN virtue of the Convention signed on the 4th of December, 1851,* between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic and Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in that Republic, it was agreed that twelve per cent. of the sums received at the Maritime Custom-houses should be set apart for the payment of the three per cent. interest and of five per cent. destined to pay off the capital of the sums included in that Convention, and that "if at the end of the year, the amounts due for interest and for paying off the capital should not be covered, the General Treasury, without waiting for any further orders, was to pay the amount due with the first drafts it received from the Maritime Custom-houses."

It has been ascertained that, in consequence of the revolutionary movements which have been for some time existing, and which unfortunately still exist in various parts of the Republic, there will be a large deficit on the 4th proximo in the amount necessary to pay the sums stipulated upon in the aforesaid Convention. With the view,

EN virtud de la Convencion que se firmó el dia 4 de Diciembre de 1851* por el Excelentísimo Señor Ministro de Relaciones de la República Mexicana y el Encargado de Negocios de Su Magestad Británica en dicha República, se convenió que se separaría un doce por ciento de los derechos de importacion en las Aduanas Marítimas para pagar el tres por ciento de reditos y cinco por ciento de amortizacion de las sumas comprendidas en esa Convencion, y que "si al fin del año no estuvieran cubiertas los intereses y el cinco por ciento de amortizacion, la Tesoreria General, sin necesidad de nueva orden, cubriría el deficit con la primeras libranzas que recibiera de las Aduanas Marítimas."

Mas habiendose reconocido que, á consecuencia de los movimientos revolucionarios que de algun tiempo á esta parte se han presentado, y que por desgracia todavía existen actualmente en varios puntos de la República, habrá un deficit considerable para completar la suma que corresponde al dividendo que se debia pagar el dia 4 del

* See Inclósure 5 in No. 43.

however, of proving the entire good faith with which the Mexican Government is resolved to carry the Convention of the 4th of last December into effect, and which has been partially delayed on the present occasion by the unforeseen circumstances above-mentioned, a formal Conference by previous appointment took place this day in the Office of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of that Department, the Minister of Finance, and Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary being present, when the following agreement was come to, namely :

That for the payment of the sums which may be ascertained to be due in the liquidation to be made on the 4th of next December, of the three per cent. interest, and of the five per cent. destined to pay off the capital under the English Convention, there be set apart from that date a further sum of three per cent. of the import duties in the Maritime Custom-houses of Vera Cruz, Tampico, Acapulco, Manzanillo, Altata, and Guaymas, and in those of San Blas and Mazatlan, as soon as they return to the obedience they owe to the General Government.

This increase of three per cent. will cease as soon as the deficit is made good.

(L.S.) PERCY W. DOYLE.

proximo Diciembre conforme á la citada Convencion; y con el fin de manifestar la absoluta buena fé que el Gobierno Mexicano quiere mostrar en el cumplimiento de la Convencion del 4 de Diciembre ultimo, y que en esta ocasion se ha diferido parcialmente por las circunstancias imprevistas ya mencionadas, se citó una Conferencia formal, la cual se ha efectuado el dia de hoy en el Ministerio de Relaciones, estando presentes los Señores Ministros de Relaciones y de Hacienda, y el Señor Ministro Plenipotenciario de Su Magestad Británica, y se convinó en el arreglo siguiente :

Se destina para el pago de la cantidad que por la proxima liquidacion resulte deberse á la Convencion Inglesa, por el tres por ciento de reditos y cinco por ciento de amortizacion correspondientes al año que termina el 4 de Diciembre proximo, un tres por ciento mas de lo que tiene señalado de los derechos de importacion que se causen en las Aduanas Marítimas de Vera Cruz, Tampico, Acapulco, Manzanillo, Altata, y Guaymas, y en las de San Blas y Mazatlan, cuando vuelvan el orden.

Este aumento del tres por ciento cesará en cuanto esté cubierto el deficit espresado.

(L.S.) M. YANEZ.

Inclosure 4 in No. 43.

The Otway Convention, signed August 10, 1858.

AT a conference held between the undersigned Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic, with the object of drawing up in due form the new arrangements relative to the fulfilment of the Convention of 4th December, 1851, for the payment of claims of British subjects against the National Treasury, which, by approval and sanction of his Excellency the Acting President of the Republic, were agreed to on the 31st of last month, in conformity with the contents of the confidential note addressed by the latter to the former on the same date, bearing in mind the previous circumstances of this transaction, the explanations in various conferences with reference thereto, the statement given in writing on the 23rd of the same month by Messrs. Martinez del Rio Brothers, as parties interested in the same Convention and agents thereof, and moreover all that which was stated verbally by Messrs. Martinez del Rio in the last conference as to the losses and injuries sustained in consequence of the delays and

REUNIDOS los infrascritos Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República Mexicana y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Su Magestad Británica con el objeto de extender en debida forma los arreglos relativos al cumplimiento de la Convencion de 4 de Diciembre de 1851, sobre pago de créditos de súbditos Ingleses contra el Erario Nacional que, con aprobacion de su Excelencia el Presidente Interino de la República quedaron acordados desde el 31 del mes proximo anterior, segun la nota confidencial que el primero pasó al segundo en la misma fecha, teniendo en consideracion los antecedentes de este negocio, lo manifestado en diversas conferencias acerca de él, lo espuesto por escrito en 23 del mismo por los Señores Martinez del Rio, Hermanos, como interesados y agentes de la referida Convencion, y cuanto de palabra espresó el Señor Martinez del Rio en la última conferencia sobre los daños y perjuicios que han sufrido con ocasion de las dilaciones y falta de puntual cumplimiento en el pago, la crecida suma que por tal motivo se les debe, y los derechos que por

want of punctuality in the payments; the large amount which on this account is due to them, and the rights to which, in virtue of the said Convention, they are entitled, especially those conceded by Article VII, of which they might take advantage, as the case provided against has now arisen, being desirous of not carrying matters to this extremity, but on the contrary to conciliate inasmuch as possible the interests of the creditors with the distressed position of the national finances in consequence of the circumstances in which the country finds itself, and profiting by the favourable disposition always evinced by the said creditors, and at the same time the Government being on their part animated by the most sincere desire to protect, in as far as may be in their power, the interests of British subjects, have agreed as follows:—

ARTICLE I.

For the exact fulfilment, strict observance, and inviolability of the Convention of December 4, 1851, regarding British claims, and with the view of repairing in some degree the injuries sustained by the parties therein concerned from the want of the punctual payment of the quotas assigned, all dividends which from this time forward shall be declared on account of interest, shall be so at the rate of six per cent. per annum in lieu of three and four as hitherto stipulated.

ARTICLE II.

The payments will continue to be made on the terms stipulated in the aforesaid Convention, setting aside for that purpose the assigned quota of sixteen per cent. of the import duties of the maritime Custom-houses, without any alteration or change whatever, and remitting the same in bills, as agreed upon, for delivery to Messrs. Martínez del Río Brothers.

ARTICLE III.

The amounts which have been omitted to be paid to the parties interested, and to which they have a just and indisputable right, will be made good to them whenever the Government shall possess sufficient means, it being impossible to effect this at the present moment, in consequence of their urgent necessities and limited resources.

ARTICLE IV.

The aforesaid Convention of the 4th of December, 1851, and all the provisions necessary for its exact fulfilment, remain in full force and vigour without further altera-

tal Convencion les competen, especialmente los que les dejó á salvo el Artículo VII, de que pudieran hoy hacer uso por haber llegado el caso previsto en él, deseando no llevar las cosas á este extremo, sino conciliar cuanto sea posible los intereses de los acreedores con el estado angustioso del Erario por las circunstancias en que actualmente se encuentra la nacion, y aprovechando los buenos sentimientos que siempre han mostrado los espresados acreedores, animado el Gobierno por su parte de los mas sinceros deseos de proteger, cuanto esta á su alcance, los intereses de los súbditos Británicos, han acordado los Articulos siguientes:—

ARTICULO I.

Para el exacto cumplimiento, estricta observancia, é inviolabilidad de la Convencion de 4 de Diciembre de 1851, sobre créditos Ingleses, y reparar de alguna manera los perjuicios que han sufrido los comprendidos en ella por falta de pago puntual de los cuotas señaladas, todo dividendo que se haga desde esta fecha en adelante por cuenta de reditos será á razon de seis por ciento al año en vez del tres y cuatro que estaba estipulado.

ARTICULO II.

Los pagos continuarán haciendose en los términos espresados en dicha Convencion, separandose al efecto en las Aduanas Marítimas sin variacion la cuota fijada de diez y seis por ciento de los derechos de importacion, remitiendose en libranzas, como esta dispuesto, para su entrega á los Señores Martínez del Río, Hermanos.

ARTICULO III.

Las cantidades que han dejado de pagarse á los interesados, á que tienen derecho justo é indisputable, les serán satisfechas cuando el Gobierno tenga recurros bastantes, no pudiendo verificarse desde luego por sus urgentes atenciones y las escasezes del Erario.

ARTICULO IV.

Quedan en todo su vigor y fuerza la citada Convencion de 4 de Diciembre de 1851, y las disposiciones que se hubieren dictado para su exacto cumplimiento sin

tion or change than what is expressly laid down and stipulated in the present Agreement as to the increase of interest, without its being in any way thereby understood to be modified, changed, altered, or with less force and vigour than heretofore, inasmuch as that which is now agreed to is for the sole object and purpose, as already stated, of confirming and ratifying the inviolability and punctual observance thereof; it will, consequently, hold the same force as though it had been literally inserted in the same, and Article VII thereof extended to the present Agreement.

In witness whereof, we, the said Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mexico, have signed the present Protocol, and have affixed thereto our respective seals.

Done in the city of Mexico, on the tenth day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

(L.S.)

L. C. OTWAY.

(L.S.)

J. M. DE CASTILLO Y
LANZAS.

mas diferencia que lo espresamente estipulado en el presente Convenio sobre aumento de redito, no entendiendose por esto inovada, alterada, ó con menos valor que antes; pues lo pactado ahora es como se ha dicho para confirmar y asegurar su inviolabilidad y puntual observancia; tendrá por tanto la misma fuerza que si literalmente se hallara inserto en ella; haciendose estensivo á este arreglo lo contenido en su Artículo VII.

En fé de lo cual los espresados Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República Mexicana y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Su Magestad Británica, hemos firmado y sellado con nuestros sellos respectivos al presente Protocolo, en la ciudad de México, á diez de Agosto, de mil ochocientos cincuenta y ocho.

Inclosure 5 in No. 43.

The Doyle Convention, signed December 4, 1851.

HABIENDO el Gobierno de la República Mexicana hecho presente la imposibilidad en que se encuentra de cumplir ciertos convenios y arreglos que existen entre el Gobierno Mexicano y varios súbditos Británicos, celebrados bajo la garantía de la Legacion de Su Magestad Británica, porque la penuria del Erario Federal lo ha obligado á suspender el pago de las cuotas á que por aquellos convenios y arreglos estaba obligado; despues de largas y repetidas conferencias en que se han examinado detenidamente el estado de las rentas de la República, las cuantiosas obligaciones que sobre ellas pesan, y la conveniencia comun de fundar un arreglo sobre condiciones exiguibles y no sobre unas de difícil ó incierto cumplimiento que ademas del perjuicio que causarian á los acreedores podrian comprometer la conservacion de la buena armonía que existe entre los Gobiernos de ambos paises, deseando el de Mexico hacer justicia á las demandas de sus acreedores hasta donde se lo permiten sus recursos y la obligacion y derecho de conservarse, y convenidos los acreedores en hacer el sacrificio de sus reclamos bajo las bases de un arreglo tan equitativo como lo permita la situacion pecuniaria del Gobierno contándose con la garantía y seguridad de que será exactamente cumplido, los infrascritos Ministro de Relaciones de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, autorizado por el Decreto de diez y siete de Octubre del corriente año, y Encargado de Negocios de Su Magestad Británica, reunidos en conferencia diplomática han convenido en los Artículos siguientes:—

ARTICULO I.

Los reclamantes interesados en las convenciones y arreglos existentes que corren con el nombre de la casa de Martinez del Rio hermanos, de Montgomery Nicod y Compañía, representados por la casa de Jecker y Compañía y de convencion Pakenham firmada el 15 de Octubre de 1842, se presentarán á la Tesorería General para hacer la liquidacion de sus créditos con arreglo á este Convenio, y la citada oficina lo verificará precisamente dentro del término de treinta dias contados desde el de su fecha.

ARTICULO II.

El Gobierno Mexicano se obliga á pagar anualmente cinco por ciento de amortizacion de ese fondo consolidado, y tres por ciento de interes anual calculado sobre la disminucion progresiva que ocasiona la amortizacion.

ARTICULO III.

El pago de las cantidades anuales que se destinan á la amortizacion é intereses de los créditos comprendidos en el presente Convenio se verificará por semestres vencidos, en manos del comisionado que al efecto nombraren los acreedores comprendidos en él. Para hacer efectivas las estipulaciones contenidas en el Artículo anterior, el Gobierno Mexicano se obliga á consignar sobre el producto de los derechos de importacion que se cobren en las aduanas establecidas en los puertos de la República, un tanto por ciento bastante para cubrir el monto del cinco por ciento de amortizacion, y del tres por ciento de interes que se señala á los créditos comprendidos en el presente Convenio. Para que en ningun tiempo pueda diferirse ó suspenderse el pago de ese cinco y tres por ciento, el Gobierno Mexicano se obliga á pasar una orden á los administradores de la espresada renta, señalándoles la cuota de los derechos espresados que deben remitir en libranzas separadas á la Tesorería General á favor de dicho comisionado, las cuales libranzas deberán serle entregadas en cuanto las reciba la espresada Tesorería.

Si al fin del año no estuvieren cubiertos los intereses y el cinco por ciento de amortizacion, la Tesorería General, sin necesidad de nueva orden, cubrirá el déficit con las primeras libranzas que reciba de las Aduanas marítimas; y el comisionado, por su parte, si hubiese recibido mayor cantidad que la que importen los espresados intereses y amortizacion anual, devolverá á la Tesorería General el escedente.

ARTICULO IV.

El Ministro de Relaciones de la República pasará al Encargado de Negocios de Su Magestad Británica una copia de la orden que por el de Hacienda se trasmita á los Administradores de Aduanas en cumplimiento del Artículo anterior, la cual se considerará como si estuviese inserta y formará parte del presente Convenio.

ARTICULO V.

Deseando el Gobierno Mexicano dar pruebas inequívocas de la justicia y equidad con que se propone proceder en este arreglo, se obliga á mejorar la condicion de sus acreedores, aumentando despues del quinto año, contado desde esta fecha, el interes concedido al capital y á su amortizacion. En consecuencia, se obliga á pagarles el cuatro por ciento anual de interes y el seis por ciento anual de amortizacion al cumplirse dicho quinto año, de tal manera que este aumento empiece á correr desde el sexto.

ARTICULO VI.

Como el Congreso Mexicano está tratando de hacer una ley para el pago de la deuda interior, los interesados comprendidos en el presente Convenio quedan cada uno de ellos en libertad de trasladar sus créditos al fondo que en virtud de ella se creare, haciendo saber su resolucion al Ministro de Relaciones, quien la comunicará á la Legacion de Su Magestad Británica.

ARTICULO VII.

Queda espresamente estipulado y convenido que en caso de quebrantarse, suspenderse, ó diferirse por el Tesoro Mexicano el cumplimiento de cualquiera de las obligaciones que contrae en presente Convenio, queda este de hecho anulado, y los acreedores restituidos en el goce de los derechos adquiridos en los arreglos y convenciones existentes.

En fé de lo cual los espresados Ministro de Relaciones y Encargado de Negocios de Su Magestad Británica lo firmamos y sellamos con nuestros sellos respectivos, en la ciudad de México, á 4 de Diciembre de 1851.

(L.S.) PERCY W. DOYLE.
(L.S.) JOSE F. RAMIREZ.

The Sayas or Padre Moran Convention, signed December 6, 1851.

Habiendo hecho presente el Gobierno de la República Mexicana la imposibilidad en que se encuentra de cumplir ciertos convenios y arreglos que se celebraron entre el mismo Gobierno y el Reverendo Padre Moran, apoderado de las Misiones Apostólicas de Filipinas, de la Orden de Santo Domingo, bajo la garantía de la Legacion de Su Magestad Católica, porque la penuria del Erario Federal le ha obligado á suspender el pago de las cuotas que por aquellos se asignaron para la estincion de varios créditos, despues de largas y repetidas conferencias en que se han examinado detenidamente el estado de las rentas de la República,

las cuantiosas obligaciones que sobre ellas pesan, y la conveniencia comun de fundar un arreglo sobre condiciones exequibles y no sobre unas de difícil ó incierto cumplimiento, que ademas del perjuicio que causarian á los acreedores podrian suscitar dificultades entre los Gobiernos de España y de Mexico; deseando este último hacer justicia á las demandas de sus acreedores hasta donde se lo permitan sus recursos, y la obligacion y derecho de conservarse, convenido Don Cayetano Rubio, dueño actual de los créditos que pertenecieron á las espresadas Misiones, en hacer el sacrificio de sus derechos entrando en una transaccion bajo las bases de un arreglo tan equitativo como lo permita la situacion pecuniaria del Gobierno Mexicano, y con la garantia y seguridad de que será exactamente cumplido, los infrascritos Ministro de Relaciones de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, autorizado por el Decreto de 17 de Octubre del corriente año, y Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Su Magestad Católica, reunidos en conferencia, han convenido en los Artículos siguientes:—

ARTICULO I.

Don Cayetano Rubio, actual poseedor de los créditos que pertenecieron á los Padres Misioneros Dominicos, comprendidos en los arreglos y convenios que corren con el nombre de su apoderado el Reverendo Padre Moran, se presentará á la Tesorería General para hacer la liquidacion de los espresados créditos con arreglo al presente Convenio, y la citada oficina la verificará precisamente dentro del término de treinta dias contados desde él de su fecha.

ARTICULO II.

El Gobierno Mexicano se obliga á pagar anualmente cinco por ciento de amortizacion de ese fondo consolidado, y tres por ciento de interes anual calculado sobre la disminucion progresiva que ocasione la amortizacion.

ARTICULO III.

El pago de las cantidades anuales que se destinan á la amortizacion é intereses de los créditos comprendidos en el presente Convenio, se verificará por semestres vencidos en manos de Don Cayetano Rubio. Para hacer efectivas las estipulaciones contenidas en el Artículo anterior, el Gobierno Mexicano se obliga á consignar sobre el producto de los derechos de importacion que se cobren en las Aduanas establecidas en los puertos de la República un tanto por ciento bastante para cubrirse el monto del cinco por ciento de amortizacion y del tres por ciento de interes que se señala á los créditos comprendidos en el presente Convenio. Para que en ningun tiempo pueda diferirse ó suspenderse el pago de ese cinco y tres por ciento, el Gobierno Mexicano se obliga á pasar una orden á los Administradores de la espresada renta, señalandoles la cuota de los derechos espresados que deben remitir en libranzas separadas á la Tesorería General á favor de dicho Señor Rubio, las cuales libranzas deberán serle entregadas, en cuanto las reciba la espresada Tesorería.

Si al fin del año no estuvieren cubiertos los intereses y el cinco por ciento de amortizacion, la Tesorería General, sin necesidad de nueva orden, cubrirá el déficit con las primeras libranzas que reciba de las Aduanas marítimas, y el Señor Rubio por su parte, si hubiere recibido mayor cantidad que la que importen los espresados intereses y amortizacion anual, devolverá á la Tesorería General el escedente.

ARTICULO IV.

El Ministro de Relaciones de la República pasará al Ministro Plenipotenciario de Su Magestad Católica una copia de la orden que por el de Hacienda se transmita á los Administradores de las Aduanas, en cumplimiento del Artículo anterior, la cual se considerará como si estuviese inserta, y formará parte del presente Convenio.

ARTICULO V.

Deseando el Gobierno Mexicano dar pruebas inequívocas de la justicia y equidad con que se propone proceder en este arreglo, se obliga á mejorar la condicion del crédito á que se refiere, aumentando despues del quinto año, contado desde esta fecha, el interes concedido al capital y á su amortizacion. En consecuencia, se obliga á pagar al Señor Don Cayetano Rubio, el quatro por ciento anual de interes, y el seis por ciento anual de amortizacion, al cumplirse dicho quinto año, de tal manera que este aumento empiece á correr desde el sexto.

ARTICULO VI.

Como el Congreso Mexicano está tratando de hacer una ley para el pago de la deuda interior, Don Cayetano Rubio queda en libertad de trasladar los créditos á que se refiere el presente Convenio al fondo que en virtud de ella se creare, haciendo saber su resolucíon al Ministerio de Relaciones, quien la comunicá á la Legacion de Su Magestad Católica.

ARTICULO VII.

Queda espresamente estipulado y convenido, que en caso de quebrantarse, suspenderse ó diferirse por el Tesoro Mexicano el cumplimiento de cualquiera de las obligaciones que contrae en el presente Convenio, queda este de hecho anulado, y el Señor Rubio restituido en el goce de los derechos adquiridos en los arreglos y convenciones celebradas con el Reverendo Padre Moran.

En fé de lo cual, los espresados Ministro de Relaciones de la República Mexicana, y Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Su Magestad Católica, lo firmamos y sellamos con nuestro sello respectivo, en la ciudad de Mexico, á seis de Diciembre de mil ochocientos cincuenta y uno.

(L.S.)

JOSE F. RAMIREZ.

(L.S.)

JUAN ANTONIO Y ZAYAS.

(Translation which, *mutatis mutandis*, will serve for both Conventions.)

THE Mexican Government having declared the impossibility of its fulfilling certain Conventions and Agreements which exist between it and various British subjects, entered into under the guarantee of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation, on account of the state of penury of the Federal Treasury which has caused it to suspend the payment of certain quotas set apart for the payment of those Conventions and Agreements, after long and repeated conferences, in which the state of the revenue of the Republic has been carefully looked into, the numerous obligations by which it is bound, and the advantage to both parties to enter into an arrangement founded on conditions which can be carried out, and not on such as may be of difficult or uncertain execution, which besides the prejudice they would cause to the creditors themselves, might compromise the preservation of the good harmony which exists between the Governments of both countries; and being, moreover, desirous of doing justice to the demands made by its creditors, as far as its resources and the obligation and right it has to preserve its existence will permit, and its creditors being willing to make the sacrifice of their demands in favour of an arrangement based upon as equitable terms as the situation of the finances of the country will permit, counting upon the guarantee and security that it will be faithfully carried out, the Undersigned Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United States of Mexico, authorized by the Decree of 17th October of the present year, and Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, having met together in a Diplomatic Conference, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The creditors interested in the existing Conventions and arrangements known under the name of the house of Martinez del Rio Brothers; of Montgomery, Nicod, and Co., represented by the house of Jecker and Co.; and of the Convention signed by Mr. Pakenham on the 15th of October, 1842,—shall present themselves at the General Treasury to settle the amount of their credits, according to the terms agreed upon in this Convention, and that amount shall be fixed precisely within the term of thirty days, counted from the day on which this Convention is signed.

ARTICLE II.

The Mexican Government obliges itself to pay yearly a sum of five per cent. for the purpose of paying off the capital of this Consolidated Fund, and three per cent. a-year for interest upon it, calculated on the gradual decrease of the amount of the fund caused by the paying off of the capital.

ARTICLE III.

The payment of the sums destined to pay off yearly the capital and interest of the credits included in the present Convention shall take place every six months through a Commissioner appointed for that purpose by the creditors interested in the Convention.

To render effective the stipulations contained in the preceding Article, the Mexican Government obliges itself to assign from the produce of the importation duties collected in the Custom-houses established in the ports of the Republic, so much per cent. as may be sufficient to cover the amount necessary for paying the five per cent. destined to pay off the capital and the three per cent. interest allotted to the credits included in the present Convention.

To prevent any delay or suspension at any time taking place in the payment of the five and three per cent. above mentioned, the Mexican Government obliges itself to send an order to the Collectors of the aforesaid revenue, stating to them the amount of the aforesaid duties to be sent in separate drafts to the General Treasury in favour of the aforesaid Commissioner, which drafts are to be made over to him as soon as they are received at the Treasury.

If at the end of the year the amounts due for the interest and for paying off the capital are not covered, the General Treasury, without waiting for any further order, shall pay the amount due with the first drafts it receives from the maritime Custom-houses; and the Commissioner, on his part, if he should have received more than is necessary for paying off the yearly amount of the capital, and the interest agreed upon, shall return the surplus to the Treasury.

ARTICLE IV.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of this Republic shall send to Her Britannia Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires a copy of the order which the Minister of Finance sends to the Collectors of the Custom-houses in fulfilment of the preceding Article, which Article shall be considered as having been inserted in and forming part of the present Convention.

ARTICLE V.

The Mexican Government being desirous of giving unequivocal proofs of the justice and equity with which it intends to act in this arrangement, obliges itself to better the condition of its creditors, by increasing from the fifth year, counted from the present date, the interest granted for the capital, and the sum allotted for paying it off.

It consequently obliges itself to pay four per cent. interest a-year, and to allow six per cent. a-year for paying off the capital from the end of the fifth year, that is to say, that this increase is to take place from the beginning of the sixth year from the present date.

ARTICLE VI.

As the Mexican Congress is about to pass a law for the purpose of paying off the internal debt, the persons interested in the present Convention are all and each one at liberty to transfer their credits into the fund which may be created for the above purpose, making their intention known to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will communicate it to Her Britannic Majesty's Legation.

ARTICLE VII.

It is especially stipulated and agreed that, in the event of any part of the obligations contracted by the present Convention being broken through, or their fulfilment delayed or suspended by the Mexican Treasury, this Convention becomes at once thereby annulled, and the creditors restored to the possession of the rights acquired in the Conventions and arrangements already existing.

In witness whereof we, the aforesaid Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic, and Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, have signed and sealed the above Convention with our respective seals.

Done at Mexico, the fourth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

(L.S.)	PERCY W. DOYLE.
(L.S.)	JOSE J. RAMIREZ.

Inclosure 6 in No. 43.

Custom-House Order which formed part of the Doyle and Padre Moran Conventions, though not issued till two months after the Ratification of the two Conventions.

*Secretaria de Estado y del Despacho de Hacienda.
Seccion 2, Num. 37.*

PARA que tengan su puntual cumplimiento las Convenciones celebradas en 4 y 6 de Diciembre del año próximo pasado con el Señor Encargado de Negocios de Su Magestad Británica y el Excelentísimo Señor Enviado Extraordinario de Su Magestad Católica sobre la amortizacion gradual y pago de intereses á razon de 3 por ciento anual de los créditos reconocidos por el Gobierno á favor de varios súbditos Ingleses, y del que tienen contra el Erario las Misiones de Filipinas representadas por el Reverendo Padre Fr. José M. Moran, y perteneciente hoy á Don Cayetano Rubio, el Excelentísimo Señor Presidente ha tenido á bien disponer que esa Tesoreria General prevenga á las Aduanas marítimas que de los derechos de importacion que se causen en ellas, separen el 12 por ciento que es lo que por ahora se necesita para la indicada amortizacion y pago de réditos: remitiendo su importe sin demora de ninguna clase á esa Tesoreria General en libranzas pagaderas á los plazos del arancel á favor de los Señores Martinez del Rio hermanos, quienes las recibirá de esa oficina para dar á su importe la aplicacion correspondiente como comisionados nombrados al efecto por los respectivos acreedores, llevándose por esa propia Tesoreria la cuenta respectiva de las sumas que se abonen en cuenta de los mencionados créditos, prévia la correspondiente liquidacion de su monto. Como por las circunstancias en que aun se encuentra el Estado de Yucatan no es posible que por ahora se haga en las Aduanas marítimas de Campeche y Sisal la separacion del indicado 12 por ciento por la disminucion que sufririan los recursos destinados á las tropas ocupadas en la guerra contra los indígenas, el Excelentísimo Señor Presidente ha dispuesto que entretanto las espresadas Aduanas pueden hacer la remision del repetido 12 por ciento den únicamente noticia á esa Tesoreria, cada mes, de lo que importe la misma cuota para que lo reintegre la Aduana de Vera Cruz por cuenta de la parte libre para el Gobierno de los derechos de importacion. Deseando el Excelentísimo Señor Presidente que lo estipulado en las mencionadas Convenciones sea exactamente cumplido como exige el decoro de la nacion, ha dispuesto que V. SS. encarguen muy particularmente á los administradores de las Aduanas marítimas respectivas, la puntual observancia de las prevenciones precedentes sin distraer para ningun otro objeto las cantidades pertenecientes al fondo de que se trata, en el concepto de que su Excelencia verá con desagrado cualquiera omision ó descuido que note en el particular, y tomará en el caso las providencias que convengan. Todo lo que de órden suprema comunico á V. SS. para su inteligencia y fines indicados.

Dios y Libertad!

México, Febrero 9 de 1852.

(Firmado)

M. DE ESPARZA.

Señores Ministros de la Tesoreria General.

(Translation.)

Department of Finance, Section 2, No. 37.

TO give full force and effect to the Conventions which were concluded respectively on the 4th and 6th of December, 1851, by Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires and Her Catholic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary, in reference to the sinking funds and 3 per cent. interest, destined to pay off gradually certain British claims which have been recognised by the Government, as well as those of the Philippine Missionaries, represented by the Reverend Francis J. Moran, and now in the hands of Mr. Rubio, his Excellency the President has been pleased to ordain that the General Treasury do make known to the Maritime Custom-houses that 12 per cent. of the import duties is to be set apart for the present requirements of the sinking funds and interest of both Conventions, the amount produced by this 12 per cent. to be remitted without any kind of delay to the General Treasury by bills payable, as the Custom-house tariff directs, in favour of Messrs. Martinez del Rio, the appointed agents of the respective creditors, who will receive these bills from the Treasury and apply them to the purposes for which they are intended, the Treasury having, previous to their liquidation, taken an account of the several sums thus handed over for the payment of the above-mentioned credits.

Owing to the present state of Yucatan, it will be impossible for the moment to set aside 12 per cent. of import duties in the Maritime Custom-houses of Campeche and Sisal, as this would tend to diminish the resources required for the maintenance of the troops

now engaged in the Yucatan war, and consequently his Excellency the President has further ordained that, until the said Custom-houses are in a position to make this assignment of 12 per cent., they are simply to notify to the Treasury every month the amount that it has actually produced, and the equivalent will then be paid from the free portion of the revenue at the Custom-house of Vera Cruz.

The President wishes that the stipulations of the above-mentioned Conventions should be carried out in a manner befitting the national honour; the authorities, therefore of the several Custom-houses must be especially enjoined punctually to carry out the conditions of this order, and in no case to employ for other purposes the moneys belonging to the Convention funds, as any omission or shortcomings on their part would cause his Excellency displeasure, and oblige him to act accordingly.

All which I am commanded to communicate to the General Treasury for their guidance in carrying into effect the above order.

God and Liberty!

Mexico, February 9, 1852.

(Signed)

M. DE ESPARZA.

To the Commissioners of the General Treasury.

Inclosure 7 in No. 43.

Messrs. Martinez del Rio to Mr. Mathew.

Sir,

Mexico, May 24, 1861.

WE beg leave to request that you will have the goodness to inform us whether the additional 5 per cent. assigned in virtue of the arrangement made by Captain Aldham for repaying the amount taken by the Mexican Government is to be applied exclusively to the British Convention, or to that of the Padre Moran as well?

As the money seized by the Mexican Government belonged to the two Conventions, and the extra assignment was intended to repay that money, we are in doubt how the said 5 per cent. is to be considered, and shall feel much obliged by your informing us in what manner we are to act.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

MARTINEZ DEL RIO,

Agents for the British Convention.

Inclosure 8 in No. 43.

Mr. Mathew to Messrs. Martinez del Rio.

Gentlemen,

Mexico, May 24, 1861.

IN reply to your letter of this date I have no hesitation in stating that the steps taken by Captain Aldham, at my request, with respect to the repayment of the sums due to the British Convention, referred solely to that fund and not to the Convention of the Padre Moran, of which you happen to be also agents, and which is, I believe, under Spanish protection.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE B. MATHEW.

Inclosure 9 in No. 43.

The Minister of Finance to Messrs. Martinez del Rio.

(Translation.)

Mexico, June 14, 1860.

IN reply to your communication of the 5th instant respecting certain bonds issued to Mr. Henry Dalton by the General Treasury as if belonging to the British Convention, the Supreme Government has desired me to tell you that there are documents existing in this Department proving that, by the consent of Mr. Dalton himself, the bonds which were issued to him could in no way affect the British Convention Fund; consequently,

this gentleman may present himself before the Supreme Government whenever he likes to do so, and establish the right of his claim, it being understood that such claim, be its resent condition what it may, cannot affect the interests of the aforesaid Convention.

God and Liberty!

(Signed) TOVAR.

No. 44.

Sir C. Wyke to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 29.)

My Lord,

Mexico, August 27, 1861.

DURING the past month the position of affairs has not materially changed in this country, where the hatred and contempt felt for the Government seem daily to increase. Murders and robberies continue to be perpetrated with the greatest impunity, and the precincts of a Legation have not saved the French Minister from an attack on his life, as already reported to your Lordship in a former despatch.

On the 3rd instant the diligence arrived from Pachuca containing a wounded Frenchman, who subsequently died, and the dead body of poor Mrs. Chawner, a pretty young Englishwoman of only twenty-four years of age, who, with her husband, was coming to Mexico from the mines of Real del Monte, where he has been employed for some time past as a labourer. They were attacked by robbers at about six leagues from this city, who having been beaten off by the other passengers, have not again been heard of. Since then, an Englishman of the name of Mathews has been stabbed in one of the most frequented streets of this capital, and other foreigners have been similarly assaulted, but no further deaths have occurred that I am aware of. In all these cases the assailants have come off with perfect impunity, and the Government has not even had the decency to express regret for these outrages, which they are apparently unwilling or unable to prevent.

A more disgraceful state of things than that now existing here it is impossible to conceive in any country pretending to call itself a civilized nation. Mrs. Chawner was the daughter of Stephen Bennett, who was murdered at Pachuca in the month of April last.

General Ortega, who at the head of a considerable force has for the last two months been vainly endeavouring to put down the rebellion, at length surprised Marquez at Jalatlaco on the night of the 12th or 13th instant, when he succeeded in capturing some guns, and making seventy or eighty prisoners, Marquez escaping in the confusion, with the rest of his forces.

Instead of following up his success, Ortega immediately returned to Mexico, and thus left Marquez at liberty to reorganize his defeated troops and effect a junction with Mejia, and they both now hold their old position with between 6,000 and 7,000 men.

The friends of Ortega have taken advantage of his pretended success to bring him forward as a candidate for the Presidency, and as all parties are thoroughly disgusted with Juarez, it is not improbable that they may succeed if any legal means can be found of getting rid of the latter. Congress has been summoned to meet on the 30th, when, doubtless, some effort will be made in the sense indicated.

In the meantime, Don Ignacio Comonfort, ex-President of the Republic, has arrived at Monterey, and is supposed to be intriguing with Doblado, Vidaurri, and several other Governors of States in that part of the country, to put himself at the head of a coalition which would be strong enough, could Marquez and Mejia, as Chiefs of the Reactionary party, be got rid of, to upset Juarez and counteract Ortega. Many people assert that Doblado, who is Governor of Guanajuato, and as such at the head of 8,000 men, is working for himself, and using Comonfort as a tool; but, I believe, nobody here knows really what is going on, except that all feel certain that something is about to occur, for the present state of things cannot last much longer.

The civil war now raging, and the weakness of the Government, have encouraged the Indian population to rise against the whites at Ixmiquilpan, about twenty leagues from here, where they have committed dreadful atrocities, thus adding a new element of discord and misery to those already existing. This movement, if not at once checked, may lead to terrible results, as the immense majority of the inhabitants of this Republic belong to the Indian race, which, if properly led, is quite strong enough utterly to exterminate the degenerated and vitiated descendants of the old Spanish conquerors.

The tax on capital now being levied, of which I have treated in a separate despatch, has only tended still further to discredit the Government and increase the

number of its enemies, as nobody now can tell when he may not be called on to supply the necessities of an Administration which is as rapacious as it is dishonest and incapable.

The Decree of the 17th ultimo has had the effect of paralyzing all business at Vera Cruz, where the merchants refuse to remove their goods from the Custom-house, and the Government is thus deprived of the duties which they expected to obtain free from any encumbrance.

All the respectable classes look forward with hope to a foreign intervention as the sole means of saving them from ruin, and preventing a dissolution of the Confederation, as well as a general rising of the Indians against the white population. If either Great Britain or France adopt coercive measures to obtain redress for the violation of the Conventions, and the many other grievances we have to complain of, then the moderate party may take courage and be able to form a Government which would afford some hope for the future; but without such moral support and assistance they are afraid to move, and will remain the victims of the two contending factions, whose dissensions have already caused so much misery and bloodshed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 45.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, September 30, 1861.

TO forcible interference in the internal affairs of an independent nation, Her Majesty's Government are, on principle, opposed. It remains to be considered whether Mexico forms an exception to the general rule.

Undoubtedly, in regard to the evils to be remedied, few cases of internal anarchy, bloodshed, and murder can exceed the atrocities perpetrated in Mexico. But, on the other hand, there is no case in which a remedy by foreign interference appears so hopeless.

The contending factions are spread over a vast extent of country; they do not obey any one, two, or three Chiefs, but are split into fragments, each of which robs, pillages, and murders on its own account. No foreign army would be likely to establish any permanent or pervading authority over these scattered bodies.

In the next place, the Spanish troops, which form the most available force for the occupation of any forts or positions which may be taken, are peculiarly an object of dislike and apprehension to one of the two parties which divide the country. This dislike arises from a fear that the power of a dominant Church might be restored, with the abuses and religious intolerance which accompany it. For opposite reasons, British interference would be just as odious to the Church party.

I may add to these reasons, the universal alarm which would be excited, both in the United States and in the Southern States, at the contemplation of European interference in the domestic quarrels of an American independent Republic.

Without at all yielding to the extravagant pretensions implied by what is called the Monroe doctrine, it would be, as a matter of expediency, unwise to provoke the ill-feeling of North America, unless some paramount object were in prospect, and tolerably sure of attainment.

The Spanish Government are of opinion that the successful action of Great Britain, France, and Spain to enforce their just demands, would induce the Mexicans to institute a Government more capable than any which has lately existed, to preserve the relations of peace and friendship with foreign Powers. Should such be the indirect effect of naval and military operations, Her Majesty's Government would cordially rejoice; but they think this effect is more likely to follow a conduct studiously observant of the respect due to an independent nation, than to be the result of an attempt to improve by foreign force the domestic institutions of Mexico.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received October 3.)

(Extract.)

Paris, October 2, 1861.

M. THOUVENEL having been in the country when I received your Lordship's instructions to communicate to him your despatch of the 27th ultimo, containing an account of a conversation which you had had with Mr. Adams on the affairs of Mexico, and the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the course which should be pursued, I sent him a copy of it.

An opportunity for seeing him did not occur until to-day, and I had in the meantime received your Lordship's despatch of the 30th ultimo, relating to the employment of a foreign force in that country, which I read to his Excellency before our conversation commenced.

M. Thouvenel said that he had made no proposal to impose, or to influence by an armed force, an arbitration in the internal affairs of Mexico. He had thought it very likely that the employment of force for those legitimate purposes which the British and French Governments had in view might encourage the well-disposed part of the Mexican people, who might feel the gall of the yoke to which they were subjected, to profit by the moment to throw it off, and to substitute something better in its place; and he must confess that, should such turn out to be the case, he did not see why a movement of the kind, if it proved to be decidedly popular, should not receive the support of the Powers who had come to Mexico to seek from an acknowledged bad Government redress for injuries done to their subjects, and for violated engagements towards themselves.

While, therefore, partaking in principle your Lordship's views, and admitting the inexpediency of forcible interference in the internal affairs of an independent nation, he drew a distinction between forcible interference and the indirect encouragement arising out of the presence of forces called to those shores for other purposes, given to the Mexican people to emerge from an odious tyranny.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1861.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that the Queen is prepared to enter into a Convention with France and Spain, the object of which would be to secure the fulfilment by the Government of Mexico of its obligations towards the respective Governments, and to obtain redress for injuries done in Mexico to their respective subjects.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it would be proper to insert in any such Convention a stipulation providing that the forces of the Contracting Parties shall not be employed for any other objects than those which I have specified, and especially that they shall not interfere with the internal government of Mexico.

Her Majesty's Government consider that the Government of the United States should be invited to adhere to any such Convention; but they would not think it necessary that, in anticipation of meeting with the concurrence of the United States, the three Powers should defer the commencement of the contemplated operations against Mexico.

If the Government of the Emperor should be willing to enter into such a Convention as I have described, a draft of it shall forthwith be sent to your Excellency, for communication to M. Thouvenel.

I have directed Sir John Crampton to make a similar overture to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1861.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the Queen is prepared to enter into a Convention with France and Spain, the object of which would be to secure the fulfilment by the Govern-

ment of Mexico of its obligations towards the respective Governments, and to obtain redress for injuries done in Mexico to their respective subjects.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it would be proper to insert in any such Convention a stipulation providing that the forces of the Contracting Parties should not be employed for any other objects than those which I have specified, and especially that they should not interfere with the internal government of Mexico.

Her Majesty's Government consider that the Government of the United States should be invited to adhere to any such Convention; but they would not think it necessary that, in anticipation of meeting with the concurrence of the United States, the three Powers should defer the commencement of the contemplated operations against Mexico.

If the Government of Her Catholic Majesty should be willing to enter into such a Convention as I have described, a draft of it shall forthwith be sent to you for communication to Marshal O'Donnell.

I have directed Earl Cowley to make a similar overture to the French Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 49.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received October 11.)

My Lord,

San Ildefonso, September 21, 1861.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, I lost no time in making the inquiry therein directed, as to whether the Spanish Government would object to ask the United States to act in concert with England and France in relation to the affairs of Mexico.

Marshal O'Donnell, without saying anything which implied an opinion that the co-operation of the United States in this matter would in itself be objectionable, observed that the Government of that country was probably too much engrossed in its internal affairs to be able at the present moment to direct its attention elsewhere; and added that the Spanish Government, which had already displayed great patience under extraordinary provocation, could at all events not now postpone the measures which it had determined to adopt, and which were called for by the country in vindication of its rights.

Spain, the Marshal observed, by inviting England and France to join with her in a common line of action in Mexico had given sufficient proof that she did not desire to secure to herself any exclusive advantages in that country, and still less that she designed to avail herself of its distracted condition, with a view to the conquest or re-annexation of any part of it.

In his opinion nothing could be more detrimental to the true interests of Spain than the recovery of her ancient possessions in America; whatever may have been the sentiments of former Governments of Spain, a sounder view of this matter was now, he thought, well established in the minds of all persons who had duly reflected upon the subject. With regard to Cuba and the Philippines it was different, because their insular position and other circumstances still rendered their position advantageous to the mother country; but to seek to extend her dominion on the Continent of America would be a most mistaken policy for Spain, even if circumstances were to favour its practicability. The recent acquisition of Spain in Santo Domingo might, his Excellency remarked, appear to be a deviation from this principle; but the proximity of Santo Domingo to Cuba rendered it a point from which the safety of the latter might be menaced, were it to fall into the hands of parties hostile to Spain.

I took occasion to remark that, although I was not in possession of your Lordship's views upon this subject, further than they might be inferred from the question I had just put to his Excellency, there were circumstances which, in my opinion, rendered it desirable that the Government of the United States should, at all events, be invited to act in concert with the European Powers in regard to Mexico. The extreme jealousy felt by every political party in America in regard to intervention or interference of any sort by European Powers in the affairs of the New World was well known. Her Majesty's Government, it was true, could never recognize what was commonly called the "Monroe doctrine," nor did I believe that any other European Government was likely to subscribe to it. But the repeated announcement of this maxim by successive Presidents of the United States as a fundamental principle of their policy, and its eager acceptance as such by the American people, rendered it sufficiently evident that European intervention in the affairs

of Mexico would be viewed by them as an infringement of an imagined right, and if now undertaken without their being consulted, and at a time when it would appear to them that advantage was taken of their internal troubles to make light of their influence, and perhaps to realize projects repugnant to their political sympathies, a strong feeling of resentment would not fail to be created, in which both sections of the now divided Union would concur. Although this feeling might not, under present circumstances, manifest itself in measures of actual hostility, influences could, nevertheless, be brought to bear by parties in the United States upon the affairs of Mexico, sufficiently powerful to cause embarrassment to Spain, or any other European Power, which had a political object to achieve in that country.

Marshal O'Donnell did not deny that there was some force in these considerations, and replied that as it was no part of the design of Spain to take advantage of the powerless condition of the United States with a view of either reconquering Mexico or of re-establishing monarchy there, he did not see that there existed any positive objection to the concurrence of the United States in the measures proposed by Spain. With regard to the expediency, however, of a proposal to that effect being made by Spain to the United States, he would request me to speak with M. Calderon Collantes, when the question would be brought by that Minister under the immediate consideration of the Cabinet.

On communicating with M. Calderon Collantes I found his Excellency in no way indisposed to take the subject into consideration; and he promised shortly to inform me of the decision of the Cabinet. M. Calderon did not seem to anticipate any objection to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to invite the United States to join in a common line of action with Great Britain, France, and Spain. His Excellency, however, made the same reserve as Marshal O'Donnell had done, viz., that Spain could in no case postpone her action in order to secure the co-operation of the American Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 50.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received October 11.)

(Extract.)

San Ildefonso, September 24, 1861.

I TOOK the earliest opportunity after the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, to call Marshal O'Donnell's attention to the rights of Her Majesty's Government upon the Customs revenue of Vera Cruz and Tampico.

These rights, I observed, were sanctioned by a Convention with Mexico; and Her Majesty's Government had claimed of the Mexican Government that the Customs of those ports should be placed under the control of British Commissioners with a view to the satisfaction of British claims, it being understood that those Commissioners should also pay the sums due by Mexico to other nations, and which were guaranteed by mortgage on the revenues of the same Customs.

I added that I made this communication by direction of Her Majesty's Government in order to avoid any misunderstanding which might arise in regard to the rights of Great Britain at Vera Cruz and Tampico in case Spain should find it necessary to take military possession of those ports.

Marshal O'Donnell replied that in case it was found necessary to occupy Vera Cruz and Tampico, and that such occupation was effected by the combined action of England, France, and Spain, as he hoped would be the case, the three Powers would have no difficulty in apportioning their respective claims upon the Customs revenues there collected under their authority. If, on the other hand, Spain were to act alone and to hold possession of Vera Cruz and Tampico, she would not on that account be the less ready to recognize, and to the best of her power enforce, the legitimate rights which Great Britain and other friendly Powers might have previously acquired there. As matters now stood it appeared that Mexico, by an Act of her Congress, had repudiated the claims of all nations upon her Custom-house revenues, and, consequently, the blockade or military occupation of her ports by Spain could not, by causing a suspension of commerce, place the interests of the parties to whom their Customs revenue was pledged in a worse position than they now were; but if Spain were thus enabled to enforce her own claims, she would undoubtedly respect those of other nations.

Marshal O'Donnell expressed the opinion that if England, France, and Spain, were to combine their forces, no resistance would be attempted by Mexico. If Spain acted alone it might be otherwise, and this made him desire that a common line of action might be agreed upon.

This being his view, I inquired whether the Spanish Government would not consent to defer its action until Great Britain and France could concert together as to the best measures to be taken?

Marshal O'Donnell replied that paramount considerations rendered it impossible for Spain to consent to delay the measures she had decided upon beyond the period which he had previously mentioned to me, viz., the beginning of November, before which time naval or military operations on the coasts of Mexico could not be undertaken, on account of the prevalence of the yellow fever and the West India hurricanes.

The grievances of which the Spanish Government had to complain were of long standing, and they had waited with patience for more than six months in the vain hope of some satisfaction for them being afforded, and more especially for the indignity offered in the dismissal of the Spanish Minister from Mexico. Cortes would assemble in the course of next month; and the Spanish Government would be unable to justify themselves before that body and the nation if they were to defer beyond what was rendered necessary by material obstacles the vindication of its rights and dignity.

This inevitable delay would, however, he expressed the hope, afford time for England and France to concert together, and with Spain, the measures necessary for combined action.

Marshal O'Donnell renewed to me on this occasion the assurances he had formerly given, that Spain had no views of conquest upon Mexico, and that he was entirely opposed to the notion of re-establishing, by foreign influence, a monarchical form of government in that country, or otherwise meddling with the internal administration of its Government.

No. 51.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received October 11.)

(Extract.)

Paris, October 10, 1861.

I SAW M. Thouvenel this afternoon on the subject of the proposed Convention for regulating the joint action of Great Britain, France, and Spain, in the expedition to be undertaken against Mexico, and I read to him your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant upon this subject, received this morning.

M. Thouvenel said that he was quite ready to join Her Majesty's Government in signing a Convention for the purposes recited by your Lordship; that he agreed entirely in the principles which your Lordship had laid down as those which should guide the action of the allied Powers.

M. Thouvenel disclaimed, as he had done on a former occasion, any desire to impose any particular form of government in Mexico.

No. 52.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, October 12, 1861.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 10th instant, reporting your conversation with M. Thouvenel on the course which Her Majesty's Government proposed should be adopted towards Mexico by the Governments of England, France, and Spain, as explained to you in my despatch of the 4th instant.

I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government consider an engagement not to interfere by force in the internal affairs of Mexico to be an essential part of the Convention.

I understand from Sir John Crampton that, while reserving to themselves the right of exerting moral influence for the establishment of a better order of things in Mexico, the Spanish Government agree with Her Majesty's Government that force ought not to be used for that purpose.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received October 19.)

(Extract.)

Paris, October 18, 1861.

M. THOUVENEL informs me that the Emperor is willing that M. de Flahault should negotiate the Treaty concerning Mexico in London, and full powers will be sent to him on Tuesday next.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received October 24.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, October 9, 1861.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant I sought an interview with Marshal O'Donnell, as well as with M. Calderon Collantes, and stated that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to enter into a Convention with France and Spain for the purpose of obtaining reparation from Mexico for the injuries received by their respective subjects, and for securing the fulfilment of the obligations entered into by Mexico towards their respective Governments.

I observed that Her Majesty's Government proposed that it should be provided by an Article of the Convention, that the forces of the Contracting Parties are not to be employed for any ulterior object, and especially that they are not to interfere with the internal government of Mexico. I said that Her Majesty's Government desire that the Government of the United States should be invited to adhere to the Convention; adding, however, that Her Majesty's Government did not consider that any delay in the commencement of active operations ought to be permitted on this account.

Marshal O'Donnell replied, that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government should be immediately submitted to the consideration of the Cabinet.

This was accordingly done, and M. Calderon Collantes, on the 8th instant, communicated to me the views of Her Catholic Majesty's Government in regard to the proposed Convention.

The Spanish Government, M. Calderon said, were very willing to conclude with England and France a Convention for the objects which I had stated to him on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

They agreed to the insertion of an Article in the Convention to the effect that the forces of the High Contracting Parties should not be employed for any ulterior object. Spain, his Excellency remarked, had no such object in view: she neither sought to reconquer any part of Mexico, or to re-establish a Monarchical Government there in favour of any European Prince or other person; nor had she any intention of endeavouring to place one or other of the contending factions in Mexico at the head of the Government of the Republic. The Spanish Government felt no difficulty, therefore, in concurring with Her Majesty's Government in the opinion that no armed intervention in the internal government of Mexico should be attempted.

The only point, consequently, in regard to which he could perceive any shade of difference in the views of Her Majesty's Government and those of Spain in this respect was, that Her Catholic Majesty's Government was of opinion that, considering the great influence which must necessarily be exercised by the very presence of the combined forces of England, France, and Spain, upon the internal state of Mexico, it would be well that they should endeavour to profit by the impression which could not fail to be created thereby upon the Mexican people, to exercise a moral influence upon the contending parties, with a view of inducing them to lay down their arms, and come to an understanding for the formation of a Government which would offer some guarantee to the allies for the fulfilment of the engagements of Mexico towards their respective Governments, for a better observance of her international duties in future, and one which would afford some prospect, at least, of a cessation of the miseries to which that unfortunate country had so long been exposed. This, his Excellency said, he thought the three Powers were bound in honour to attempt, both on the grounds of humanity and of policy; and perhaps more on the ground of humanity than of policy. It was not generally borne in mind, M. Calderon remarked, that at the bottom of the civil strife in Mexico there was a contest between two races. The Spanish race was at all times in a minority in that country; and, from natural causes, the disproportion between it and the original Indian race was continually increasing. If these causes continued to operate unchecked

by the moral superiority of the European element, and were aggravated by a continual recurrence of intestine struggles, there could be no doubt that the germs of civilization which had been originally planted by Spain would be crushed out, and the country would relapse into something of the same condition in which it was found by Hernan Cortes. This was a consummation which he thought the European Powers ought to make at least an effort to prevent.

I remarked, in reply, that I did not doubt Her Majesty's Government would entirely concur with his Excellency in thinking that the object which he proposed to himself was both a politic and a humane one; and if by moral influence was meant the offer of advice to the Mexican Government to refrain from civil strife, Her Majesty's Government would, I felt sure, not hesitate now to do, conjointly with Spain and France, what they had done singly on more than one occasion. If, however, more than this was intended by the Spanish Government, I confess I felt at a loss as to the means of effecting any real change in the state of Mexico without the application of actual force, or without exerting the influence of the intervening Powers in favour of one or the other of the contending factions. Besides this, it appeared evident to me that the object proposed, if it were to be effected at all, must be the work of time, and, consequently, could not be effected within any definite period. I would, therefore, inquire whether the Spanish Government contemplated the continuance of the occupation of the Mexican ports until such time as a Government such as they should desire to see established in Mexico should be constituted.

M. Calderon replied, certainly not; the Spanish occupation would be limited to what was necessary for obtaining the redress of wrongs inflicted upon Spanish subjects, and satisfaction for acts inconsistent with the rights and dignity of the Spanish Government; and would, if possible, not be prolonged beyond the period at which the climate would render the stay of the troops and vessels dangerous to their health and safety.

No. 55.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received October 28.)

(Extract.)

Washington, October 14, 1861.

I HAD the day before yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, relative to the affairs of Mexico.

I had, a few hours later in the day, an interview with Mr. Seward. In the course of conversation he introduced the subject of Mexico. I found that he had not yet received Mr. Adams' report of the conversation which he held with your Lordship on the 25th ultimo, concerning the proposal of the United States to assume the payment of the interest of the Mexican debt to Great Britain and France.

He told me that he had already sent instructions to the United States' Ministers in London and Paris which would enlarge their powers of negotiation, and which would in particular enable them to engage that the United States should provide for the interest of the debt to Spain, and also for the satisfaction, to a certain extent (as I understood), of the general claims of Great Britain, France, and Spain, upon Mexico. He was (he said) on the point of sending similar instructions to the United States' Minister at Madrid. He had been informed that the Spanish Government having heard that England and France were about to intervene in Mexico, had determined to be beforehand with them, and had already prepared an expedition which was ready to sail from Cuba. Would it not be wise to avoid the complications which could not but follow such an expedition, by assenting to an arrangement which would provide for the material interests of the three European Powers, and postpone to a more favourable moment difficult and dangerous questions?

I said to Mr. Seward that I presumed that he would receive in the course of the day reports from Mr. Adams and Mr. Dayton of the manner in which his proposals had been received by your Lordship and M. Thouvenel. He would, I observed, find that grave objections to them were entertained both in London and in Paris. I proceeded, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, to speak to Mr. Seward in the sense in which your Lordship had spoken to Mr. Adams, as set forth in your despatch to Earl Cowley dated the 27th ultimo. I said in particular that Her Majesty's Government were as apprehensive as Mr. Seward himself could be, of an attempt to build upon a foundation of debts due, and injuries inflicted, by Mexico, a pretension to establish a new Government in that country. Her Majesty's Government thought, however (I proceeded to observe), that the most effectual mode of guarding against this danger would be for

Great Britain, the United States, and France to join Spain in a course of action the objects and limits of which should be strictly defined beforehand. This certainly appeared more prudent than to allow Spain to act alone now, and afterwards to oppose the results of her operations, if she should go too far.

Mr. Seward appeared to be unwilling to abandon his own plan, which would, he said, have the advantage of rendering all interference on the part of European Powers in the affairs of Mexico entirely superfluous.

No. 56.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received October 30.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, September 29, 1861.

DURING the past month nothing of any particular importance has taken place here. The Opposition, after endeavouring to get rid of President Juarez, has been crippled by the desertion of twelve of its members, and parties in Congress have become equalized, and each now prevents the other from carrying any measure of an important character.

General Ortega, after his unsuccessful campaign against Marquez, was deprived of his command, and has now returned to his native State of Zacatecas, of which he is Governor. His rival, General Doblado, has succeeded him as Commander-in-chief of the Forces, and is about in his turn to attack Marquez and the other Chiefs of the Reactionary party, who still remain at the head of between 7,000 and 8,000 men, with which they have hitherto completely baffled all the efforts of the Government to subdue them.

The Executive has lost all real authority over the different States of the Confederation, which are now virtually independent, and whenever it suits them set at defiance any orders they may receive from the Supreme Government.

Some anxiety is beginning to be felt as to the measures likely to be adopted by England and France, in consequence of the violation of the Diplomatic Conventions; but these people console themselves with the reflection, that "when the day cometh sufficient is the evil thereof."

Should the different ports be occupied by our naval forces, they propose to withdraw the Custom-houses further inland, with a view of levying duties on all goods proceeding from the coasts to the capital. This is a project which they will find some difficulty in carrying out, from their utter want of system and regular organization.

With the moral support given by our occupation to the moderate and respectable party, they will probably be strong enough to turn out the present Administration and form a Government which would be glad to treat with us, and thus re-establish those friendly relations with foreign Powers so necessary to the real welfare of the Republic.

No. 57.

Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, October 30, 1861.

I AM commanded by the Queen to signify to your Lordships Her Majesty's pleasure, that with a view to the operations on the Coast of Mexico, to be carried out by the combined forces of England, France, and Spain, Her Majesty's squadron on the North American and West Indian station should, as soon as convenient, be reinforced, and a detachment of 700 supernumerary Marines should be embarked on board the squadron.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 58.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received October 31.)

My Lord,

Washington, October 17, 1861.

MR. SEWARD mentioned to me yesterday that he had received a despatch from Mr. Adams, stating that he had waited upon your Lordship in Scotland, and communicated

to you the proposal that the United States should assume the payment of the interest on the foreign debt of Mexico. Mr. Seward told me that Mr. Adams reported that your Lordship had not agreed to the proposal, but had stated your intention to make a counter-proposal. This, Mr. Seward said, was perhaps as favourable a reception of his plan as could be expected at the first moment.

He proceeded to inform me that he had received a communication from M. Tassara, the Spanish Minister here, stating that the expedition which Spain was prepared to send against Mexico was intended solely to seek redress for the wrongs suffered by Spain herself, and not at all to interfere with the internal affairs of Mexico, or to change the form of government in that country.

Mr. Seward added that M. Tassara had further informed him that it was under consideration whether Spain should make the expedition alone or in conjunction with England and France. If the latter course were adopted the concert of the United States would (M. Tassara had assured Mr. Seward) be invited by the Three Powers.

Mr. Seward appeared to be very unwilling to admit that his own proposal to assume the payment of the interest of the debt was not likely to be accepted either in London, Paris, or Madrid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 59.

Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordships that I have this day signed, on behalf of Her Majesty, with the Plenipotentiaries of France and Spain a Convention, having for its object the adoption of measures of coercion against Mexico for the protection of the persons and properties of the subjects of the respective States, and for securing a fulfilment of the obligations contracted by the Republic of Mexico towards the Sovereigns of Great Britain, France, and Spain.

In pursuance of the provisions of this Convention the Contracting Powers propose to employ on the coast of Mexico a sufficient naval and military force, and I am accordingly to signify to your Lordships Her Majesty's pleasure that a force consisting of two line of battle ships, four frigates, and an adequate number of smaller vessels, should be sent to Vera Cruz, and that a body of supernumerary Marines to the amount of 700 men should be embarked on board those ships, with a view to their being landed and employed on shore if circumstances should require it.

I am further to signify to your Lordships Her Majesty's pleasure that the Admiral or other senior officer in command of this force should be instructed to place himself in communication with the officers commanding the French and Spanish forces, and in concert with them to demand:—

1. Full satisfaction and reparation for the wrongs suffered by the three nations; and
2. That the forts of Vera Cruz should be at once delivered up to the forces of the three nations as a guarantee for the performance of such conditions as may be agreed upon.

I have further to state to your Lordship that it is the intention of the three Powers severally to name a Commissioner to frame, in concert with the officer commanding the naval forces of the three Powers, the Articles an assent to which will be demanded of the Mexican Government, or of the persons exercising authority in Mexico; and that Sir Charles Wyke, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, will be empowered to act as Commissioner on behalf of Her Majesty, and with that view he will be instructed to embark on board the ship of the British Admiral, or of the officer in command of Her Majesty's forces.

The troops and marines of the combined forces will remain in possession of the forts of Vera Cruz and other forts, if taken, until further order.

Her Majesty has been pleased likewise to signify her pleasure that Rear-Admiral Maitland should be instructed to possess himself of the harbour of Acapulco, or any other port on the Pacific coast of Mexico, with the exception of Mazatlan, which he may consider it necessary to occupy with a view to secure the objects of the Convention; but Mazatlan is not to be occupied without special orders.

I inclose, for your Lordships' information, a copy of the Convention* under which

* Inclosure in No. 60.

these operations are to be carried out, although some days must elapse before the ratifications of it can be exchanged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 60.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1861.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith confidentially, inasmuch as the ratifications of it have not yet been exchanged, a copy of a Convention* which I have signed this day with the Plenipotentiaries of France and Spain respecting the measures of coercion which England, France, and Spain are prepared jointly to adopt for the protection of the persons and properties of their respective subjects in Mexico, and for securing the fulfilment of the obligations contracted by the Republic of Mexico towards the respective Sovereigns.

I also inclose a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty,† signifying Her Majesty's pleasure as to the measures to be taken on the part of Her Majesty in fulfilment of the engagements undertaken by her in this Convention; and, in conformity with what is stated in my letter, I have to instruct you to embark on board the ship of the Admiral or of the Senior Officer commanding Her Majesty's ships, and at the proper time to undertake the duties of Commissioner on behalf of Her Majesty under the Convention, and to frame in concert with Admiral Milne, and with the Commissioners of France and Spain and the officers commanding the naval forces of those two countries, the Articles an assent to which will be demanded of the Mexican Government, or of the persons exercising authority in Mexico.

You will instruct Her Majesty's Consuls at the ports which may be determined on, to collect, in concert with the French and Spanish Consuls at those ports, the Customs duties, and to pay them over according to such rules as the Commissioners may jointly lay down.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Convention between Her Majesty, the Queen of Spain, and the Emperor of the French, relative to Combined Operations against Mexico; signed at London, October 31, 1861.†

SA Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, se trouvant placées par la conduite arbitraire et vexatoire des autorités de la République du Mexique dans la nécessité d'exiger de ces autorités une protection plus efficace pour les personnes et les propriétés de leurs sujets, ainsi que l'exécution des obligations contractées envers elles par la République du Mexique, se sont entendues pour conclure entre elles une Convention dans le but de combiner leur action commune, et, à cet effet, ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir :

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, le Très Honorable Jean Comte Russell, Vicomte Amberley de Amberley et Ardsalla, Pair du Royaume Uni, Conseiller de Sa Majesté Britannique en Son Conseil Privé, Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté pour les Affaires Etrangères ;

Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, Don Xavier de Isturiz y Montero, Chevalier de l'Ordre insigne du Toison d'Or, Grand-Croix de l'Ordre Royal et distingué de Charles III, de l'Ordre Impérial de la Légion d'Honneur de France, des Ordres de la Conception de Villaviciosa et Christ de Portugal, Sénateur du Royaume, ancien Président du Conseil de Ministres et Premier Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Catholique, et Son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté Britannique ;

* Inclosure in No. 60.

† No. 59.

‡ Ratifications exchanged at London, November 15, 1861.

Et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, Son Excellence le Comte de Flahault de la Billarderie, Sénateur, Général de Division, Grand-Croix de la Légion d'Honneur, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire de Sa Majesté Impériale près Sa Majesté Britannique;

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué réciproquement leurs pleins pouvoirs respectifs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont tombés d'accord pour arrêter les Articles suivants :—

ARTICLE I.

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, s'engagent à arrêter aussitôt après la signature de la présente Convention, les dispositions nécessaires pour envoyer sur les côtes du Mexique des forces de terre et de mer combinées dont l'effectif sera déterminé par un échange ultérieur de communications entre leurs Gouvernements, mais dont l'ensemble devra être suffisant pour pouvoir saisir et occuper les différentes forteresses et positions militaires du littoral Mexicain.

Les Commandants des forces alliées seront, en outre, autorisés à accomplir les autres opérations qui seraient jugées, sur les lieux, les plus propres à réaliser le but spécifié dans le préambule de la présente Convention, et notamment à assurer la sécurité des résidents étrangers.

Toutes les mesures dont il s'agit dans cet Article seront prises au nom et pour le compte des Hautes Parties Contractantes, sans acception de la nationalité particulière des forces employées à les exécuter.

ARTICLE II.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à ne rechercher pour elles-mêmes, dans l'emploi des mesures coercitives prévues par la présente Convention, aucune acquisition de territoire ni aucun avantage particulier, et à n'exercer, dans les affaires intérieures du Mexique, aucune influence de nature à porter atteinte au droit de la nation Mexicaine de choisir et de constituer librement la forme de son Gouvernement.

ARTICLE III.

Une Commission composée de trois Commissaires, un nommé par chacune des Puissances Contractantes, sera établie avec plein pouvoir de statuer sur toutes les questions que pourrait soulever l'emploi ou la distribution des sommes d'argent qui seront recouvrées au Mexique, en ayant égard aux droits respectifs des trois Parties Contractantes.

ARTICLE IV.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes désirant, en outre, que les mesures qu'elles ont l'intention d'adopter n'aient pas un caractère exclusif, et sachant que le Gouvernement des Etats Unis a, de son côté, des réclamations à faire valoir, comme elles, contre la République Mexicaine, conviennent qu'aussitôt après la signature de la présente Convention, il en sera communiqué une copie au Gouvernement des Etats Unis; que ce Gouvernement sera invité à y accéder; et qu'en prévision de cette accession leurs Ministres respectifs à Washington seront immédiatement munis de pleins pouvoirs à l'effet de conclure et de signer, collectivement ou séparément, avec le Plénipotentiaire désigné par le Président des Etats Unis, une Convention identique, sauf suppression du présent Article, à celle qu'elles signent à la date de ce jour. Mais comme les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'exposeraient, en apportant quelque retard à la mise à exécution des Articles I et II de la présente Convention, à manquer le but qu'elles désirent atteindre, elles sont tombées d'accord de ne pas différer, en vue d'obtenir l'accession du Gouvernement des Etats Unis, le commencement des opérations sus-mentionnées au delà de l'époque à laquelle leurs forces combinées pourront être réunies dans les parages de Vera Cruz.

ARTICLE V.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée, et les ratifications en seront échangées à Londres, dans le délai de quinze jours.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs l'ont signé, et y ont apposé le sceau de leurs armes.

Fait à Londres, en triple original, le trente-unième jour du mois d'Octobre, de l'an de grace mil huit cent soixante-un.

(L.S.)

RUSSELL.

(L.S.)

XAVIER DE ISTURIZ.

(L.S.)

FLAHAULT.

(Translation.)

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, and His Majesty the Emperor of the French, feeling themselves compelled by the arbitrary and vexatious conduct of the authorities of the Republic of Mexico to demand from those authorities more efficacious protection for the persons and properties of their subjects, as well as a fulfilment of the obligations contracted towards their Majesties by the Republic of Mexico, have agreed to conclude a Convention with a view to combine their common action, and, for this purpose, have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honourable John Earl Russell, Viscount Amberley of Amberley and Ardsalla, a Peer of the United Kingdom, a Member of Her Britannic Majesty's Privy Council, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs;

Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, Don Xavier de Isturiz y Montero, Knight of the Illustrious Order of the Golden Fleece, Grand Cross of the Royal and Distinguished Order of Charles III, of the Imperial Order of the Legion of Honour of France, of the Orders of the Conception of Villaviciosa and Christ of Portugal, Senator of the Kingdom, late President of the Council of Ministers, and First Secretary of State of Her Catholic Majesty, and Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Her Britannic Majesty;

And His Majesty the Emperor of the French, his Excellency the Count de Flahault de la Billarderie, Senator, General of Division, Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, His Imperial Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary to Her Britannic Majesty;

Who, after having reciprocally communicated their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, and His Majesty the Emperor of the French, engage to make, immediately after the signature of the present Convention, the necessary arrangements for dispatching to the coasts of Mexico, combined naval and military forces, the strength of which shall be determined by a further interchange of communications between their Governments, but of which the total shall be sufficient to seize and occupy the several fortresses and military positions on the Mexican coast.

The Commanders of the allied forces shall be, moreover, authorized to execute the other operations which may be considered, on the spot, most suitable to effect the object specified in the preamble of the present Convention, and specifically to ensure the security of foreign residents.

All the measures contemplated in this Article shall be taken in the name and on account of the High Contracting Parties, without reference to the particular nationality of the forces employed to execute them.

ARTICLE II.

The High Contracting Parties engage not to seek for themselves, in the employment of the coercive measures contemplated by the present Convention, any acquisition of territory nor any special advantage, and not to exercise in the internal affairs of Mexico any influence of a nature to prejudice the right of the Mexican nation to choose and to constitute freely the form of its Government.

ARTICLE III.

A Commission composed of three Commissioners, one to be named by each of the Contracting Powers, shall be established with full authority to determine all questions that may arise as to the application or distribution of the sums of money which may be recovered from Mexico, having regard to the respective rights of the three Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE IV.

The High Contracting Parties desiring, moreover, that the measures which they intend to adopt should not bear an exclusive character, and being aware that the Government of the United States on its part has, like them, claims to enforce upon the Mexican Republic, agree that immediately after the signature of the present Convention a copy thereof shall be communicated to the Government of the United States; that that Government shall

be invited to accede to it; and that in anticipation of that accession their respective Ministers at Washington shall be at once furnished with full powers for the purpose of concluding and signing, collectively or separately, with the Plenipotentiary designated by the President of the United States, a Convention identic, save the suppression of the present Article, with that which they sign this day. But as by delaying to put into execution Articles I and II of the present Convention, the High Contracting Parties would incur a risk of failing in the object which they desire to attain, they have agreed not to defer, with the view of obtaining the accession of the Government of the United States, the commencement of the above-mentioned operations beyond the time at which their combined forces can be assembled in the neighbourhood of Vera Cruz.

ARTICLE V.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged at London within fifteen days.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at London, in triplicate, the thirty-first day of the month of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

(L.S.)	RUSSELL.
(L.S.)	XAVIER DE ISTURIZ.
(L.S.)	FLAHAULT.

No. 61.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir C. Wyke,* directing him to repair to Jamaica, and from thence to proceed to join the Admiral wherever he may be.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 62.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

I HAVE to instruct you forthwith to repair to Jamaica with all the members of Her Majesty's Mission.

Admiral Milne has been directed to send a ship of war without delay to Vera Cruz to receive you on board and convey you and your suite to Jamaica; and subsequently to convey you and one of the Attachés of Her Majesty's Mission from Jamaica to Bermuda, or wherever the Admiral may be.

You will leave the rest of the Mission at Jamaica until you require their services.

In joining the Admiral you will embark on board the flag-ship.

The Admiral will deliver to you the further instructions for your guidance which will be sent to his care.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 63.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of Convention† which I yesterday signed with the Plenipotentiaries of France and Spain, on the subject of the measures to be adopted towards Mexico.

I also inclose drafts of the instructions which, in order to give effect to the

* No. 62.

† Inclosure in No. 60.

provisions of this Convention, I have, by the Queen's commands, addressed to the Board of Admiralty and to Her Majesty's Minister in Mexico.* I have communicated copies of these drafts to the French Ambassador and Spanish Minister.

I shall instruct Sir Charles Wyke by the mail of to-morrow to repair to Jamaica, and there await further instructions.

Her Majesty's naval forces, of which the expedition, so far as this country is concerned, is to be composed, are already, or will be shortly, at Bermuda; and I will inform Count Flahault, and will enable your Excellency to apprise M. Thouvenel, in what manner and at what place it may, in the opinion of the Board of Admiralty, be advisable that the three squadrons should unite, so as to proceed in company at the coast of Mexico.

It will remain for the three Powers to instruct their Ministers at Washington to make to the Government of the United States the communication contemplated by the IVth Article of the Convention. Her Majesty's Government propose to send their instructions to Lord Lyons by the mail of the 9th of November.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

P.S.—Sir C. Wyke will receive his further instructions on board the Admiral's ship.

No. 64.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a Convention† which I yesterday signed with the Plenipotentiaries of France and Spain, on the subject of the measures to be adopted towards Mexico.

I also inclose drafts of the instructions which, in order to give effect to the provisions of this Convention, I have, by the Queen's commands, addressed to the Board of Admiralty and to Her Majesty's Minister in Mexico.‡ I have communicated copies of these drafts to the French Ambassador and Spanish Minister.

I shall instruct Sir C. Wyke by the mail of to-morrow to repair to Jamaica, and there await further instructions.

Her Majesty's naval forces of which the expedition, so far as this country is concerned, is to be composed, are already, or will be shortly, at Bermuda; and I will inform M. de Isturiz, and will enable you to apprise the Spanish Government, in what manner and at what place it may, in the opinion of the Board of Admiralty, be advisable that the three squadrons should unite, so as to proceed in company to the coast of Mexico.

It will remain for the three Powers to instruct their Ministers at Washington to make to the Government of the United States the communication contemplated by the IVth Article of the Convention.

Her Majesty's Government propose to send their instructions to Lord Lyons by the mail of the 9th of November.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 65.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this day's date,§ I inclose, for your Excellency's information, and for communication to M. Thouvenel, a draft of a further instruction which it is my intention to address to Sir Charles Wyke with reference to the IIInd Article of the Convention respecting the measures to be taken towards Mexico.¶

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

* Nos. 59 and 60.

† Inclosure in No. 60.

‡ Nos. 59 and 60.

§ No. 63.

¶ No. 67.

No. 66.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this day's date, I inclose, for your information and for communication to the Spanish Government, a draft of a further instruction which it is my intention to address to Sir C. Wyke with reference to the IInd Article of the Convention respecting the measures to be taken towards Mexico.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 67.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

YOU should be most careful to observe with strictness Article II of the Convention signed yesterday between Great Britain, France, and Spain, by which it is provided that no influence shall be used in the internal affairs of Mexico calculated to prejudice the right of the Mexican nation freely to choose and establish its own form of government.

Should any Mexican, or any party in Mexico, ask your advice on such subjects, you will say that any regular form of government which shall protect the lives and properties of natives and of foreigners, and shall not permit British subjects to be attacked or annoyed on account of their occupations, their rights of property, or their religion, will secure the moral support of the British Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 68.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received November 1.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 1, 1861.

EARL RUSSELL having expressed his desire to be furnished with the views of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty as to the most convenient rendezvous for the combined English, French, and Spanish squadrons about to be sent to Mexico, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you as follows:—

The Spaniards having a good harbour at Havana, on the direct road to Vera Cruz, will probably assemble at that port.

The French ships going from Europe will most likely touch at Guadaloupe, but as that Island and Martinique are a long way from the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico, it seems probable that the French squadron would go on to Havana, or rather to Jamaica, as the more direct route, the latter island having the safe harbour of Port Royal, where water, coals, and provisions can be filled up.

The English ships would also naturally assemble at Port Royal, and, assuming that the joint French and English squadrons meet there, the best rendezvous that could be given for the Spanish squadron to join them would be fifteen miles north-west of Cape St. Antonio, at the western end of Cuba. This Cape is moderately high, and has a revolving light on it visible twenty miles, so that by night or by day it could be easily kept in sight. It is 175 miles, or one day's sail, from Havana, and 540 miles, or three days' sail, from Port Royal; and when the day of departure from Port Royal is fixed, an aviso or despatch-vessel might be sent on the day before from Port Royal to Port Sagua on the south coast of Cuba (whence, no doubt, there is telegraphic communication with Havana) to apprise the Spanish Admiral.

From Cape St. Antonio to Vera Cruz the distance is 650 miles, or rather more than three days' sail; but there is no place on the coast of Mexico at which a convenient rendezvous could be given, and it seems desirable that the combined squadrons should approach the coast in company.

When the "nortes" or "northerns" blow, the anchorage of Anton Lizardo, about twelve miles south-east of Vera Cruz, will be found a safe shelter, with space for a large fleet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 69.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for communication to M. Thouvenel, a copy of a letter which I have received from the Board of Admiralty respecting the manner in which the junction of the allied squadrons on their way to the coast of Mexico should be effected.*

The Count de Flahault has been informed of the substance of this letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 70.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for communication to the Spanish Government, a copy of a letter which I have received from the Board of Admiralty respecting the manner in which the junction of the allied squadrons on their way to the coast of Mexico should be effected.*

M. de Isturiz has been informed of the contents of this memorandum.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 71.

Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 1, 1861.

HER Majesty has been pleased to direct that a man-of-war should be at once sent to Vera Cruz to bring Sir C. Wyke and the members of his Mission to Jamaica.

Sir C. Wyke and one of his Attachés should be conveyed from Jamaica to Bermuda, or wherever Admiral Sir A. Milne may be, and received on board his flag-ship, leaving the rest of the Mission at Jamaica.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 72.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received November 5.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, November 1, 1861.

MARSHAL O'DONNELL, in reply to my question as to the number of Spanish ships and troops intended to be sent on the expedition, replied that as nearly as he could at present judge, the squadron would consist of 12 or 14 vessels of different sizes, carrying altogether about 300 guns. These would be accompanied by two large steam-transports, and the number of troops would amount to between 4,000 and 5,000 men.

No. 73.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 6, 1861.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to request that you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that he communicated to the French Ambassador the substance of your letter of the 1st instant, respecting the place at which the junction of the allied squadrons, about to proceed to Mexico, should be effected; and that the French Ambassador has informed me to-day that the French naval expedition will take its

departure from France on Monday next, and will touch at the French Colonies in the West Indies, and probably at Jamaica, on its way to Havana, where it is expected to arrive between the 15th and 20th of December.

Arrangements have already been made for its obtaining provisions and supplies at Havana, which, it is calculated, it will require four or five days to embark, so that the French expedition will probably be able to proceed on the 20th or 25th of December to the point off Cape St. Antonio at which it was proposed in your letter that the squadrons should unite.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 74.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received November 6.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 5, 1861.

M. DUBOIS DE SALIGNY is to be the French Commissioner under Article III of the Convention of the 31st ultimo. He will also be named first Plenipotentiary with Admiral Jurien de la Gravière to frame, in concert with the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and Spain, the demands to be made on the Mexican Government. His instructions are not yet ready, but M. Thouvenel is about to occupy himself on them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 75.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received November 6.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 5, 1861.

I HAVE communicated to M. Thouvenel, as instructed by your Lordship's despatch of the 1st instant,* the draft of a further instruction, inclosed therein, which it is your Lordship's intention to address to Sir Charles Wyke with reference to Article II of the Convention, respecting the measures to be taken towards Mexico, and his Excellency expressed his full concurrence in them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 76.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received November 6.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 5, 1861.

M. THOUVENEL had already received from M. de Flahault before I could communicate them to his Excellency, the observations of the Board of Admiralty respecting the manner in which the junction of the allied squadrons on their way to the coast of Mexico should be effected, to which your Lordship's despatch of the 1st instant† relates.

His Excellency said that he had already spoken with the Minister of Marine, and had found that arrangements had been made for the French squadron to take its final departure for Mexico from the Havana, whence it could put to sea in company with the Spanish squadron. There was no objection to Cape St. Antonio as the rendezvous of the allied squadrons.

The French squadron will leave Toulon on Monday next, but will call at Algiers to embark 500 Zouaves.

The French Admiral will then be enabled to land about 2,500 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

* No. 65.

† No. 69.

• No. 77.

Earl Russell to Lord Lyons.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 6, 1861.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a Convention* between Her Majesty, the Queen of Spain, and the Emperor of the French, for combined operations against Mexico, which was signed at London on the 31st of October.

Your Lordship will perceive that by Article IV of this Convention the Contracting Parties engage to communicate a copy of it to the Government of the United States, and to invite that Government to accede to it; and that, in anticipation of its consenting to do so, the Representatives of the three Powers at Washington shall be immediately furnished with full powers authorizing them, either jointly or separately, to conclude and sign with the Plenipotentiary who may be named by the President of the United States an identical Convention, with the omission merely of Article IV.

I have accordingly to instruct your Lordship to make a proposal to that effect to the Secretary of State of the United States, in such form as may be agreed upon between yourself and the French and Spanish Ministers, and you will receive the requisite full power to enable you, either jointly with them or separately, to sign the Convention with a Plenipotentiary of the United States.

You will take care not to conclude this matter, either in form or substance, without coming to a complete and clear understanding with the French and Spanish Ministers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 78.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 7, 1861.

I AM directed by Earl Russell, with reference to my letter of yesterday, to request that you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that his Lordship would suggest that Rear-Admiral Milne should be instructed to assemble the ships of his squadron at Port Royal, Jamaica, and should settle with the commanders of the French and Spanish squadrons, which will assemble at the Havana, on what date the British squadron shall appear off Cape St. Antonio to effect a junction with them.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 79.

Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, November 8, 1861.

WITH reference to my letter of the 31st of October, signifying to your Lordships the Queen's commands as to the instructions to be given to Rear-Admiral Milne for the guidance of his conduct in regard to affairs of Mexico, and more particularly to that passage in those instructions in which I refer to "the intention of the three Powers severally to name a Commissioner to frame, in concert with the officers commanding the naval forces of the three Powers, the Articles an assent to which will be demanded of the Mexican Government, or of the persons exercising authority in Mexico," I have the honour to state to your Lordships that Admiral Milne should be informed, that in the event of any difference of opinion between himself and Sir Charles Wyke, as to the terms in which those Articles should be framed, the opinion of Sir Charles Wyke, so far as Great Britain is concerned, should prevail.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 80.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 15, 1861.

THE instructions of the Emperor of the French are similar in substance to those which I have transmitted to you.

The French Government have contemplated a case of which I had not taken notice. It is supposed that the Mexicans may withdraw from Vera Cruz, destroying their fortifications, and refuse to enter into any agreement or negotiation whatever. In such a case the French Government maintain that the allied Powers could not allow themselves to be baffled; they could not permit their subjects to be ill-treated and defrauded, nor three powerful Governments to be defied with impunity.

The French Government in such a case, therefore, suppose that the allied forces would march on Mexico, and there require the reparation which had not been obtained on the coast. I have nothing to say against this reasoning or the measures in contemplation.

But, as regards Her Majesty's forces, you are aware that no land forces have been directed to join the British portion of the expedition. A body of 700 Marines is the whole force set apart for this service, which can be employed on shore for any length of time; neither the constitution of this force nor its amount would allow of its being employed in a march upon Mexico.

You will, therefore, if such a case should arise, decline to direct the Marines to take part in the operations against Mexico; but it is essential that uniformity should be preserved in the demands to be made upon the *de facto* authorities of Mexico.

I do not think it necessary to give you more detailed information. Her Majesty's Government have entire reliance upon your judgment and discretion: they would be unwilling to fetter that discretion by minute directions upon hypothetical cases. They would prefer, in regard to operations of much difficulty, where concert is necessary, and the aspect of affairs may vary from day to day, to leave you to the guidance of your own judgment, enlightened as that judgment will be by local information and experience. Her Majesty's Government are confident that Sir A. Milne and yourself will in the performance of your present arduous duties be guided by that zeal for the public service, and by that judgment and discrimination, of which you have both given satisfactory proofs.

No. 81.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 15, 1861.

I INCLOSE, for your information and guidance, a copy of a further letter which I have addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty,* modifying to a certain extent that part of my previous letter of the 31st of October which related to operations on the Pacific Coast of Mexico.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that if the Mexican authorities should accede to the terms which will be proposed to them, and should put the allied forces in possession of Vera Cruz, it may be unnecessary to undertake operations on the Pacific coast. But at all events they think it best, before any such operations are commenced, that you, in conjunction with Admiral Milne, and with the Ministers and Commanders of France and Spain, should have the opportunity of determining whether such operations are desirable.

If such is the case you will apprise Rear-Admiral Maitland of the result of your deliberations, and in requesting him to proceed to execute the contingent instructions with which he is furnished by the Lords of the Admiralty, you will further inform him of the steps which he should take for collecting the duties of Customs at the ports which he may occupy, and of the manner in which he should dispose of the money which he may thereby raise.

It is possible that the Mexican Government, not opposing the occupation of Vera Cruz by the allies, may decline to enter into any Convention, and may divert their exports to the ports on the Pacific. This is a contingency for which the instructions to Admiral Maitland are intended to provide.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, November 15, 1861.

WITH reference to that part of my letter to your Lordships of the 31st of October in which I conveyed to you Her Majesty's pleasure in regard to the operations to be undertaken by Rear-Admiral Maitland on the coast of Mexico, in execution of the Convention between England, France, and Spain, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordships that Her Majesty has been pleased to direct that the previous instruction should be so far modified as to subject Rear-Admiral Maitland's action to the information that he may receive from Sir Charles Wyke.

It will, therefore, be in the first instance sufficient that your Lordships should direct Admiral Maitland to occupy Acapulco or other ports on the Pacific coast of Mexico, with the exception of Mazatlan, on receiving information from Sir Charles Wyke that such an operation is desirable for the purposes of the Convention; and I will instruct Sir Charles Wyke, in the event of his making such a communication to Admiral Maitland, to acquaint him with the further steps which it may be advisable to take on obtaining possession of the ports in question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 83.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received November 16.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 14, 1861.

THE French Ambassador at Madrid has informed M. Thouvenel that intelligence had been received by the Spanish Government that the Spanish expedition against Mexico was to have put to sea on the 24th ultimo.

Marshal Serrano, the Governor of Cuba, had taken this determination in ignorance of the negotiations pursuing between the British, French, and Spanish Governments, to undertake this expedition in common; but, according to calculations made by the latter, it seemed probable that the despatches to Marshal Serrano, informing him of this circumstance, would have reached his Excellency before the 24th ultimo, and would have prevented the departure of the Spanish squadron.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 84.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 16, 1861.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, and for communication to the French Government, copies of communications as marked in the margin,* which I have addressed to the Admiralty and to Sir Charles Wyke, on the subject of the projected operations against Mexico.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 85.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 18, 1861.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, respecting the time of departure of the Spanish squadron for the coast of Mexico.†

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

* Nos. 80, 81, and 82.

† No. 84.

No. 86.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received November 20.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 19, 1861.

I FEAR that some longer time may elapse than is expected by Her Majesty's Government before the French squadron destined for Mexico can reach the Havana, as Admiral Jurien de la Gravière has insisted on all the vessels composing it rendezvousing in the first instance at Teneriffe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 87.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received November 25.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, November 19, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, in translation, an extract from the official "Gazette" of this day's date, containing two Royal Decrees, the one appointing General Prim to be Commandant-in-chief of the expeditionary corps to Mexico; the other appointing him to be Plenipotentiary for the settlement of the questions pending with the Republic of Mexico.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Extract from the Madrid "Gazette" of November 19, 1861.

(Translation.)

War Department.

Royal Decree.

IN consideration of the qualifications of Lieutenant-General Don Juan Prim, Marquis of Castillejos, I name him Commandant-in-chief of the expeditionary corps to Mexico.

Given in the Palace, November 3, 1861.

(Signed by the Royal Hand.)

The Minister of War,
(Signed) LEOPOLDO O'DONNELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Extract from the Madrid "Gazette" of November 19, 1861.

(Translation.)

Department of State.

Royal Decree.

IN consideration of the peculiar qualifications of Don Juan Prim, Count of Rens, Marquis of Castillejos, I appoint him my Plenipotentiary for the settlement of the questions pending with the Republic of Mexico.

Given in the Palace, November 17, 1861.

(Signed by the Royal Hand.)

The Minister of State,
(Signed) SATURNINO CALDERON COLLANTES.

No. 88.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord,

Mexico, October 28, 1861.

DURING the past month nothing worthy of note has taken place to change either for better or worse the chronic state of misery and disorder into which this unfortunate

country has fallen, from the incapacity of its rulers, and the bitter spirit of party hatred which animates its contending factions.

Marquez and the other Chiefs of the Reactionary party, after having for a while withdrawn from the immediate vicinity of Mexico, have retraced their steps, and are now within twenty leagues of the capital, with a force variously estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000 men.

A few days ago Marquez paid a second visit to the mining establishment of Real del Monte, in which English capital to a large amount is invested, and levied another forced contribution there to the amount of 50,000 dollars. Before he had time to do more mischief, he was attacked by the Government forces under General Tapia, who forced him to retreat, with the loss of six guns and the greater part of his badly-armed Infantry. He appears to have retired, however, in pretty good order, and having got between the Government troops and the capital, actually intercepted and captured Tapia's despatches, giving an account of the late victory!

The action of Congress is entirely nullified by the Opposition, which, without any real policy of their own, counteract every measure supported by Government, from a feeling of personal hostility to the President, whom they wish to displace, without apparently having chosen anybody to succeed him, should their efforts eventually be crowned with success.

Every day's experience only tends to prove the utter absurdity of attempting to govern the country with the limited powers granted to the Executive by the present ultra-Liberal Constitution, and I see no hope of improvement unless it comes from a foreign intervention, or the formation of a rational Government, composed of the leading men of the Moderate party, who, however, at present are void of moral courage and afraid to move, unless with some material support from abroad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 89.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received November 27.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, October 28, 1861.

I WAS much gratified in learning, by the receipt of your Lordship's despatches of the 21st and 31st of August last, that the line of conduct I adopted in negotiating with this Government to obtain the repayment of the 660,000 dollars stolen from the Legation, and the 400,000 dollars from the Laguna Seca conducta, as reported in my correspondence of the months of June and July last, had been entirely approved of by Her Majesty's Government.

The instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 21st of August enabled me to act in the only way that can be successful with a Government which, from the patient forbearance hitherto shown by Her Majesty's Government, had come to the conclusion that they could commit any and every outrage with impunity.

I was unwilling to use the power with which your Lordship had invested me by sending in an ultimatum, without first of all trying to reason them into the necessity of complying with the demands which, just in themselves, would soon be urged in such a manner as to compel the Government of the Republic to listen to them with attention.

With this object in view, I wrote a note to Señor de Zamacona, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing him that I had received by the English mail, which had just arrived, instructions from Her Majesty's Government, the tenour of which I was anxious to acquaint him with. He immediately replied that he would call on me at 4 o'clock the same day, at which hour he duly arrived at the Legation.

On my informing him of the nature of your Lordship's instructions, and even reading them to him, in order that no doubt should exist on the subject, he was as much astonished as alarmed, and expressed an earnest wish that I should not communicate with him in writing on a subject so serious, until he had acquainted the President and his colleagues the other Ministers with the actual state of the case, after which he would call on me again and acquaint me with the views of his Government.

Eight days elapsed without my seeing him, and he then returned to negotiate with me for the settlement of a question the gravity of which he had at length become fully aware of. From that day to this, that is to say, during three weeks, he has been with me for two hours at least out of every twenty-four, urging the impossibility of complying with your Lordship's demands, and trying to obtain better terms than those I insisted on.

I told him that I was willing in every way to spare their *amour propre* and extreme susceptibility, as far as was consistent with my duty; but that the essential substance of what was required must be conceded, or else I should withdraw the Mission from the Republic, which would thus have to bear the responsibility of a refusal.

The two principal objections to be overcome consisted in the repayment of the 660,000 dollars robbed from the Legation, and the appointment of interventors at the different ports: the first, because it involved the necessity of their practically recognizing a principle they had hitherto always repudiated, viz., their responsibility for the acts of the other Government; and the second, because the presence of such agents was looked on as a national humiliation, which it would be disgraceful in them, as a Government, to consent to.

Added to these was the all but impossibility of their procuring resources which would enable them to comply with our demands. At this juncture Mr. Corwin, the United States' Minister, informed them that he had instructions to negotiate a Convention with them, by which, on their giving certain guarantees, such as pledging the remains of their Church property, waste lands, &c., the American Government would engage to pay 3 per cent. interest annually on their English debt, for the space of five years, provided at the end of that time Mexico would repay the money so advanced with 6 per cent. interest thereon.

Señor de Zamacona at once wished to hand me over to my American colleague who, he felt sure, would guarantee the payment of the interest on the English debt, and thereby settle the very disagreeable questions existing between his Government and this Legation. He seemed so pleased with this new solution of his pressing difficulties that it was quite painful to wake him out of his happy day-dream by the declaration that such a combination could not be entertained, and that his Government alone must be held responsible for what it owed us.

After he had recovered from the perception of this unpleasant truth, he reflected that the money would still be forthcoming, and that he had only first of all to receive it from the United States in order to pay it back again to Great Britain. This point once settled, we set to work again, when he immediately stumbled over the insurmountable difficulty of the appointment of interventors for the reasons already stated, and, as if that was not sufficient, declared the impossibility of finding funds from which to pay the Legation and Laguna Seca robberies.

To this I replied, that if they refused our conditions, we should appoint the interventors, and by seizing their ports with a naval force, pay ourselves and their other creditors out of the duties levied at such ports. This brought him back again to the point from which we had diverged, and he then said, with some degree of truth, that, independent of the difficulty of getting the President to look at the question in its proper point of view, it was useless to wound the susceptibilities of the nation, as any agreement he made with me which had that result was certain to be repudiated by the Congress, and would utterly defeat the object we had in view. I then persuaded him that what I required could easily be reconciled with the national honour, and even prove highly advantageous to the pecuniary interests of the Republic, by giving it another form and putting aside the name of "interventor" altogether. This point at length settled, as I will hereafter explain, the next question was, where the money was to come from wherewith to pay the sums before referred to, as 59 per cent. of their import duties being mortgaged to us alone, it was clear it could not be taken from the remaining 41 per cent. out of which they have to pay the French Convention and other assignments to foreign creditors.

Some time ago they made over 20 per cent. of some extra-duties called "*mejoras materiales*" to Don Manuel Escandon for the purpose of aiding him to construct a railroad between this city and Vera Cruz. Now as this railroad plan is little better than a chimera, and they have no right to squander their money in this way whilst leaving their debts unpaid, I suggested the propriety of stopping Don Manuel's allowance, and employing one-half of it towards the liquidation of their debt to us, and keeping the other for their own more pressing necessities.

I will not any longer take up your Lordship's time by detailing the means by which, in long and weary interviews, I day by day gained my ground, until at length I think I may say I have carried my point, and brought Señor Zamacona to agree to a settlement of the difficulty on terms which, although slightly modified in form from what your Lordship instructed me to demand, will still in substance, I trust, prove satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

Our interviews only terminated this afternoon; and as soon after the departure of the English mail as possible, I shall draw up the Articles of a Convention embodying the following Agreement:—

1. Repayment of the Legation and Laguna Seca robberies, with 6 per cent. interest on the first and 12 per cent. interest on the second, by the additional 10 per cent. on extra import duties above referred to as "*mejoras materiales*."

2. The payment of arrears of interest due to the London and Convention bondholders to be made good by consigning 30 per cent. of the import duties at all the ports for the former, and 29 per cent. for the latter, until said arrears are paid off, when the per-centage on such duties will again revert respectively to 25 and 12 per cent. as heretofore.

3. Such sums owing to both classes of bondholders as were in the hands of the Custom-house authorities at the time of the suspension of payments, caused by the Law of the 17th of July last, shall be paid out of the aforesaid 10 per cent. extra duties styled "*mejoras materiales*," which, as already stated, are set aside for paying the claims arising out of the Legation and Laguna Seca robberies; and these payments shall be made of said extra duties when the losses caused by those robberies have been reimbursed.

4. The Consuls at the different ports shall be authorized to claim the inspection of any books, accounts, documents, or manifests in the respective Custom-houses, as they consider necessary to verify the receipts and accounts of the same; and, finally, any commercial house paying duties to the Government on goods imported without first of all receiving the receipts from the bondholders' agents for their per-centage on such duties shall, as well as the Custom-house authorities, render themselves liable to be sued by law for the recovery of double the amount of such duties.

5. Before signing the Convention containing the above stipulations, the Government will address me an official note engaging to use their best efforts to carry a measure through Congress for the alteration of the Tariff, whereby the duties on English manufactured goods shall be reduced to nearly one-half of what is now levied on them.

Such, my Lord, is the outline of the Convention which I hope to sign with this Government in the course of the ensuing month; and if I succeed in doing so, I think the bondholders will have every reason to be satisfied with the bargain made for them.

As it would have been impossible for this Government to fulfil such engagements without the pecuniary aid afforded to them by the American Government, and as that aid will not be forthcoming until the month of January next, the stipulations of this Convention will not come into force until that period, dating from the 1st day of the month.

The extended power given to our Consuls, together with the Agent's right to prosecute all parties defrauding the bondholders of their proper per-centage on the duties, are advantages only to be equalled by those arising from extending the collection of such per-centage to all the ports in the Republic, instead of its being confined to Tampico and Vera Cruz.

The reduction in duties will also have an immense effect in largely increasing our commercial relations with this country, which have hitherto been cramped by the enormous duties levied on our manufactured goods.

With these people one must never count on anything until it is actually done; therefore I must not boast of my success until the Convention is actually signed, which I hope it will be within the next fortnight.

As it was under the pressure of fear that this Government has yielded, it becomes absolutely necessary for our future prestige and influence here that a respectable naval force shall soon make its appearance in the waters of Vera Cruz, and in the event of the Mexican Government ever failing to comply with the engagements which they have entered into, I should be authorized to employ such naval force as I could then procure from Jamaica or elsewhere, in order to force them to perform their duty, without waiting until I could obtain instructions from home to that effect.

With such power placed in my hands, I should be able to prevent much mischief, as well as future annoyance to Her Majesty's Government.

I cannot speak in terms of sufficient praise of my American colleague, Mr. Corwin, who throughout this transaction has acted with me most cordially, having refused to negotiate his Convention with this Government until he learnt from me that I had settled all pending difficulties with them, as he was determined that the money to be advanced by his Government should be applied for the purpose it was intended, and not uselessly squandered, as it otherwise would have been, to no purpose.

As the interest due on the French Convention is a mere trifle in comparison to ours, I have strongly urged this Government to satisfy the just reclamations of the French Legation with respect to its suspension, and they have assured me that they will use their best efforts to come to some satisfactory arrangement of this question with M. de Saligny.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 28, 1861.

I RECEIVED, last night, from Sir Charles Wyke a despatch dated the 28th of October, the substance of which I propose now to communicate to you.

I should explain, in the first instance, that in the proceedings reported in this despatch Sir Charles Wyke was engaged in carrying out the instructions contained in my despatch to him of the 21st of August, of which a copy is herewith inclosed for your information,* and from which you will learn the nature of the demands which he was at that time instructed to make on the Government of Mexico in the name of Her Majesty's Government.

On the receipt of this instruction Sir C. Wyke placed himself in communication with the Mexican authorities, with the view, if possible, to avoid the necessity of presenting an ultimatum.

The two principal difficulties which Sir C. Wyke had to meet in the course of the discussions which followed were, first, the objection to the repayment of the sum robbed from Her Majesty's Legation; and secondly, the proposed appointment of Interventors at the ports.

The objection to the first of these demands was grounded on the principle that the actual authorities do not hold themselves responsible for the acts of their predecessors; and as regards the Interventors, it was urged that such an arrangement would be regarded as a national humiliation which it would be disgraceful for the Mexican Government to consent to.

The impossibility of raising funds to meet the pecuniary demands of Her Majesty's Government was also urged upon Sir C. Wyke. But a proposal made by the Minister of the United States placed the matter in a new aspect.

That Minister informed the Mexican authorities that he had instructions to negotiate a Convention with them by which, on their giving certain guarantees, such as pledging the remains of the Church property, waste lands, &c., the American Government would engage to pay 3 per cent. per annum on the Mexican debt to England for the space of 5 years, provided that at the expiration of that period Mexico would repay the money so advanced, with 6 per cent. interest thereupon.

The difficulties raised as to the repayment of the Legation and Laguna Seca robberies, and as to the appointment of Interventors, came next under discussion; but Sir C. Wyke states that he eventually carried his point, and that he thinks he may say, that he has brought Señor Zamacona, with whom the discussion was carried on, to agree to a settlement on terms which, though slightly modified from those proposed, might still prove satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

The terms thus arrived at are contained in the Articles herewith inclosed for your information,† and which Sir C. Wyke proposed immediately to embody in the form of a Convention, which he states that he hoped he should succeed in inducing the Mexican Government to sign in the course of last month.

As it was understood that it would be impossible for the Mexican Government to fulfil such engagements without the pecuniary aid afforded to them by the American Government, and as that aid was not to be forthcoming until the month of January next, it was arranged that the stipulations of the proposed Convention should not come into force until the 1st of January, 1862.

Such is the state of the case as reported by Sir C. Wyke; but with reference to the fact that the Convention was not yet signed, and that the terms agreed upon had only been conceded under the pressure of fear, Sir C. Wyke has urged the presence of a naval force at Vera Cruz, and that he should be authorized, in case of necessity, to have recourse to force to compel a compliance with the British demands as then made.

Sir C. Wyke has further urged the Mexican Government to satisfy the claims of the French Legation as regards the suspension of interest due on the French Convention, and the Mexican Government have assured him that they would use their best efforts to come to some satisfactory arrangement with M. de Saligny.

Having stated the history of these negotiations, and the result which has been reached, I have now to communicate to you the view which Her Majesty's Government take of this transaction.

The terms obtained by Sir Charles Wyke fulfil, generally speaking, the separate

requirements of Great Britain; but no security is obtained that those terms will be observed any better than former stipulations and engagements.

That security, if to be found at all, is to be found in the Convention which Her Majesty has concluded with France and Spain.

The advantage of having obtained the consent of the Mexican Government to these conditions consists, first, in the precision with which Sir Charles Wyke has drawn up the British demands, and secondly, in the assent of the Mexican authorities to the terms thus laid before them.

The task of the British Commissioner is thus rendered easy, and the work of our respective Missions will be facilitated.

It would greatly add to the facility and abridge the time of negotiation if the Government of the Queen of Spain should be able to communicate to Her Majesty's Government the terms which they would think it necessary to require for the reparation of the wrongs they have sustained at the hands of Mexico, and the safety of their subjects for the future.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 91.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 2, 1861.

I RECEIVED, on the 27th instant, from Sir C. Wyke, a despatch dated the 28th of October, the substance of which I propose now to communicate to you.

I should explain, in the first instance, that in the proceedings reported in this despatch, Sir C. Wyke was engaged in carrying out the instructions contained in my despatch to him of the 21st of August, of which a copy is herewith inclosed for your information,* and from which you will learn the nature of the demands which he was at that time instructed to make on the Government of Mexico in the name of Her Majesty's Government.

On the receipt of this instruction, Sir C. Wyke placed himself in communication with the Mexican authorities, with the view, if possible, to avoid the necessity of presenting an ultimatum.

The two principal difficulties which Sir C. Wyke had to meet in the discussions which followed, were—first, the objection to the repayment of the sum robbed from Her Majesty's Legation; and secondly, the proposed appointment of Interventors at the ports.

The objection to the first of these demands was granted on the principle that the actual authorities do not hold themselves responsible for the acts of their predecessors; and, as regards the Interventors, it was urged that such an arrangement would be regarded as a national humiliation, which it would be disgraceful for the Mexican Government to consent to.

The impossibility of raising funds to meet the pecuniary demands of Her Majesty's Government was also urged upon Sir C. Wyke; but a proposal made by the Minister of the United States placed the matter in a new light.

That Minister informed the Mexican authorities that he had instructions to negotiate a Convention with them, by which, on their giving certain guarantees, such as pledging the remains of the Church property, waste lands, &c., the American Government would engage to pay 3 per cent. per annum on the Mexican debt to England, for the space of five years, provided that at the expiration of that period Mexico would repay the money so advanced, with 6 per cent. interest thereupon.

The difficulties raised as to the repayment of the Legation and Laguna Seca robberies, and as to the appointment of Interventors, came next under discussion; but Sir C. Wyke states that he eventually carried his point, and that he thinks he may say that he has brought Señor Zamacona, with whom the discussion was carried on, to agree to a settlement on terms which, though slightly modified from those proposed, might still prove satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

The terms thus arrived at are contained in the Articles herewith inclosed for your information,† and which Sir C. Wyke proposes immediately to embody in the form of a Convention, which he states that he hoped he should succeed in inducing the Mexican Government to sign in the course of last month.

* No. 15.

† See page 117.

As it was understood that it would be impossible for the Mexican Government to fulfil such engagements without the pecuniary aid afforded to them by the American Government, and as that aid was not to be forthcoming until the month of January next, it was arranged that the stipulations of the proposed Convention should not come into force until the 1st of January, 1862.

Such is the state of the case, as reported by Sir C. Wyke ; but with reference to the fact that the Convention was not yet signed, and that the terms agreed upon had only been conceded under the pressure of fear, Sir C. Wyke has urged the presence of a naval force at Vera Cruz, and that he should be authorized, in case of necessity, to have recourse to force to compel a compliance with the British demands as there made.

Sir C. Wyke has further urged the Mexican Government to satisfy the claims of the French Legation as regards the suspension of interest due on the French Convention, and the Mexican Government have assured him that they would use their best efforts to come to some satisfactory arrangement with M. de Saligny.

Having stated the result of these negotiations, and the result which has been reached, I have now to communicate to you the view which Her Majesty's Government take of this transaction.

The terms obtained by Sir C. Wyke fulfil, generally speaking, the separate requirements of Great Britain. But no security is obtained that those terms will be observed any better than any former stipulations and engagements.

That security, if to be found at all, is to be found in the Convention which Her Majesty has concluded with France and Spain.

The advantage of having obtained the consent of the Mexican Government to these conditions consists—first, in the precision which Sir C. Wyke has drawn up the British demands ; and, secondly, in the assent of the Mexican authorities to the terms thus laid before them.

The task of the British Commissioners is thus rendered easy, and the work of our respective Missions will be facilitated.

It would greatly add to the facility and abridge the time of negotiation if the Government of the Emperor of the French should be able to communicate to Her Majesty's Government the terms which they would think it necessary to require for the reparation of the wrongs they have sustained at the hands of Mexico, and the safety of their subjects for the future.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 92.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 4, 1861.

IN the present state of our relations with the United States, Her Majesty's Government propose to send one line-of-battle ship and two frigates only to form part of the expedition to Mexico.

The number of supernumerary Marines will be 700.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 93.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 4, 1861.

IN the present state of our relations with the United States, Her Majesty's Government propose to send one line-of-battle ship and two frigates only to form part of the expedition to Mexico.

The number of supernumerary Marines will still be 700.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 94.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received December 4.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 3, 1861.

I HAVE communicated to M. Thouvenel your Lordship's despatch No. 1,324 of yesterday's date, in which your Lordship informs me of the negotiations which have taken place between Sir Charles Wyke and the Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the settlement of British claims on the Mexican Government.

M. Thouvenel did not make any other remark than that he regretted that he could not communicate to Her Majesty's Government the terms which the Imperial Government would require for the reparation of the wrongs they have sustained, and for the safety of French subjects in future. He had not himself the necessary information to enable him to form an opinion, and he had been unable, therefore, to furnish any instructions on this head to Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, which he had much desired to do. All that he could say was, that the greater part of the French claims were provided for by the Convention which the Mexican Government had set aside; and, with regard to the others, he must leave it to the discretion of the Commissioners to examine into and settle their amount.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 95.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Washington, November 29, 1861.

M. MERCIER and I received last week our instructions and full powers with regard to inviting the accession of the United States to the Convention for combined operations against Mexico, which was signed in London on the 31st of last month. But the full powers and instructions for M. Tassara, the Spanish Minister, have not yet reached him. M. Mercier and I have therefore been obliged to defer addressing to the Government of the United States the formal invitation to accede to the Convention. M. Mercier, however, on the 23rd ultimo, told Mr. Seward that instructions had been received by me and by himself, and that we should be glad to make the invitation, either collectively or separately, as he pleased; in fact, to make it in whatever form he thought most convenient.

Mr. Seward said that he presumed the invitation would be in writing, but that he was indifferent about the point of form. He did not give any hint of the nature of the answer which he should make on behalf of the United States' Government.

M. Tassara expects to receive his instructions to-morrow or the next day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 96.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received December 16.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 3, 1861.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on the following day M. Tassara, the Spanish Minister, received the instructions and full powers necessary to enable him to join M. Mercier and me in inviting the Government of the United States to accede to the Convention for combined operations against Mexico, which was signed in London on the 31st of October last. We lost no time in addressing a collective note to Mr. Seward, inviting in the name of the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Spain, the accession of the United States to the Convention. I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note. No answer has yet been made to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 96.

*MM. Tassara and Mercier, and Lord Lyons, to Mr. Seward.**Washington, ce 30 Novembre, 1861.*

LES Soussignés, Envoyés Extraordinaires et Ministres Plénipotentiaires de leurs Majestés la Reine d'Espagne, l'Empereur des Français, et la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, ont l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à l'Honorable Secrétaire d'Etat le texte d'une Convention conclue à Londres le 31 Octobre entre leurs Souverains respectifs, dans le but d'obtenir par une action commune le redressement de leurs griefs contre la République du Mexique.

Ainsi qu'il a été stipulé entre les Hautes Parties Contractantes, les Soussignés ont reçu l'ordre d'inviter le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis à accéder à cet Acte; et en adressant cette invitation à l'Honorable Secrétaire d'Etat, ils s'empressent de l'informer qu'ils sont munis de pleins pouvoirs nécessaires à l'effet de conclure et de signer collectivement ou séparément avec le Plénipotentiaire désigné par le Président des Etats-Unis une Convention identique.

Rien ne serait plus agréable aux Gouvernements d'Espagne, de France, et de la Grande Bretagne que de voir celui des Etats-Unis accueillir favorablement leur proposition, et en priant l'Honorable Secrétaire d'Etat de vouloir bien leur faire connaître la décision du Président, les Soussignés, &c.

(Signé) GABRIEL J. TASSARA.
HENRI MERCIER.
LYONS.

No. 97.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received December 22.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 10, 1861.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 4th instant, I immediately informed Marshal O'Donnell that, in the present state of our relations with the United States, Her Majesty's Government proposed to send one line-of-battle ship and two frigates only, to form part of the expedition to Mexico.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 98.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received December 22.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 15, 1861.

I HAVE communicated to M. Calderon Collantes the substance of your Lordship's despatch of the 28th ultimo, giving the history of the negotiations between Sir C. Wyke and the Mexican Government, and the result which had been reached; and acquainting me, at the same time, with the view which Her Majesty's Government take of this transaction.

I told M. Calderon Collantes that the terms obtained by Sir Charles Wyke fulfil, generally speaking, the separate requirements of Great Britain: but I added that the agreement which had been thus come to with the Mexican Government in no way altered the position of Her Majesty's Government as regards the Convention which Great Britain had concluded with France and Spain.

That Convention, I observed, affords, in fact, the only security that the terms agreed upon by the Mexican Government on this occasion shall be better observed than former stipulations and engagements.

The advantage, therefore, of having obtained the consent of the Mexican Government to these conditions, consists in the precision with which the British demands have been stated, and the assent of the Mexican authorities to the terms laid before them.

The task of the British Commissioners was, I remarked, thus rendered easy, and the work of our respective Missions would be facilitated; but it was the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it would greatly add to that facility if the Government of the Queen of Spain should be able to communicate to them the terms which Her Catholic Majesty's Government would think it necessary to require for the reparation of the wrongs they had sustained at the hands of Mexico, and the safety of their subjects in future.

M. Calderon replied that he entirely entered into the views of Her Majesty's Government in this respect, and that as far as Spain was concerned, nothing could be easier than to state with precision the terms which she on her part would require of the

Mexican Government. These terms are, in fact, embodied in the Convention concluded with Miramon, and confirmed by the Treaty Mon-Almonte, which had been repudiated by the succeeding Government of Mexico upon the same monstrous principle which the Mexican Government had attempted to oppose to the demands of Sir C. Wyke, viz., that the actual authorities do not consider themselves responsible to foreign nations for the acts of their predecessors. Upon the fulfilment of these engagements the Spanish Government would insist, and all that they would demand in addition to them would be, the infliction of due punishment upon the perpetrators of the assassinations which had since been committed upon Spanish subjects.

This, he considered, however, to be a capital point; for if the Mexican Government was unable or unwilling to administer justice in such flagrant cases, what hope could we entertain of their fulfilling other engagements? If the lives of British subjects had in any instance been sacrificed, he presumed that as a matter of course the punishment of the assassins would be made by Her Majesty's Government a primary condition to any arrangement with the Mexican Government.

In conclusion, M. Calderon expressed the opinion that the readiest way of coming to the understanding proposed by Her Majesty's Government with a view to facilitating the negotiations, would be that the Commissioners of Spain and England should be instructed by their respective Governments to communicate to each other the terms which each would think it necessary to insist upon in satisfaction for past wrongs, and as security for the future observance of international duties by Mexico.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 99.

M. Isturiz to Earl Russell.—(Received December 23.)

My Lord,

Londres, 22 de Diciembre de 1861.

CUANDO se celebró el Convenio de 31 de Octubre para arreglar la accion mancomunada de Inglaterra, España, y Francia en la República de Méjico, tuve el honor de advertir á vuestra Excelencia, de parte de mi Gobierno, que si no llegaban á tiempo las órdenes que iban á enviarse al Capitan-General de Cuba, era posible que la expedicion Española saliese del puerto de la Habana sin aguardar la llegada de las otras escuadras.

Debo ahora manifestar á vuestra Excelencia, de orden del Gobierno de la Reina mi augusta Soberana, que las últimas noticias de Cuba recibidas en Madrid, correspondientes al 26 de Noviembre, hacen todavia mas posible la eventualidad de que se trata. Parece efectivamente que dispuesta hacia ya tiempo en la Habana y lista para darse á la mar la expedicion Española, ignorándose allí si se habia firmado el Convenio entre Inglaterra, España y Francia, siendo por consiguiente desconocido cual seria el punto designado para la reunion de las tres escuadras; y ocasionando gastos enormes el mantener la prolongacion indefinida de una expedicion militar tan considerable, el Capitan-General de Cuba, movido por estas poderosas consideraciones, hacia ánimo á aquella fecha de disponer la inmediata salida de las fuerzas Españolas con direccion á Vera Cruz.

Al dar aviso á vuestra Excelencia de estos hechos, apenas necesito añadir que si realmente han llegado á verificarse, el Comandante de la expedicion Española habrá llevado órdenes de ponerse en todo de acuerdo con las fuerzas de las dos Potencias amigas y aliadas que pudieran hallarse en las aguas de Mejico; y de todos modos, dado el caso de que el Gefé Español haya roto las hostilidades y ocupado á Vera Cruz y el Castillo de San Juan de Ulloa, esta ocupacion se entenderá hecha en nombre de las tres Potencias coaligadas hasta que lleguen las escuadras de Inglaterra y Francia y se resuelva lo mas conveniente de comun acuerdo.

Con este motivo, &c.
(Firmado) XAVIER E. ISTURIZ.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Spanish Legation, London, December 22, 1861.

WHEN the Convention of the 31st October was concluded for determining the joint action of England, Spain, and France, in the Republic of Mexico, I had the honour to acquaint your Excellency that if the orders which were to be transmitted to the Captain-General of Cuba should not reach him in time, it was possible that the Spanish expedition might leave the port of Havana without waiting for the arrival of the other squadrons.

I have now to inform your Excellency, by order of the Government of the Queen my august Sovereign, that the last intelligence from Cuba received in Madrid, reaching to the 26th November, shows this event to be still more likely. It appears, in fact, that

the Spanish expedition had been for some time prepared at the Havana, and was ready to put to sea, as it was unknown there whether or not the Convention between England, Spain, and France, had been signed, and it was therefore unknown what place would be fixed upon for the meeting of the three squadrons; and as the indefinite procrastination of so considerable a military expedition would occasion enormous expense, the Captain-General of Cuba, moved by these weighty considerations, was hastening, at that date, the immediate departure of the Spanish forces to Vera Cruz.

In making known these facts to your Excellency, I need scarcely add that if this should have really taken place, the Commandant of the Spanish expedition will have had orders to put himself, in everything, in accordance with the forces of the two friendly and allied Powers which may be in the waters of Mexico, and, at all events, supposing that the Spanish Commander has commenced hostilities and taken possession of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa, this possession will be understood as taken in the name of the Allied Powers, until the squadrons of England and France shall arrive, and the most advisable action shall be determined by common accord.

I have, &c.

(Signed) XAVIER E ISTURIZ.

No. 100.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 24, 1861.

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a note which I have received from M. Isturiz,* as to the course which would be pursued if the Spanish fleet should have left the Havana for Mexico before the arrival of the allied squadrons.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 101.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 24, 1861.

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph in your despatch of the 15th instant, I have to state to you that Sir C. Wyke will be instructed to act in the manner proposed by Señor Collantes, and to communicate to the Commissioners of Spain the terms which, so far as British interests are concerned, Her Majesty's Government would think it necessary to insist upon as satisfaction for past wrongs, and as security for the future observance of international duties by Mexico.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 102.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received December 25.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 6, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note addressed to M. Tassara, M. Mercier, and to me, by which the Government of the United States announces its refusal to accede to the Convention for combined operations against Mexico, which was signed in London on the 31st of October last.

The note was sent last night to M. Tassara, without any intimation that similar notes had not been sent to M. Mercier and me. It consequently did not occur to M. Tassara to communicate it to us; and it was only accidentally that I learnt of its existence just in time to procure a copy for my messenger of to-day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Mr. Seward to MM. Tassara and Mercier, and Lord Lyons.

Washington, December 4, 1861.

THE Undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note which was addressed to him on the 30th day of

November last, by M. Gabriel G. Tassara, Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain; M. Henri Mercier, Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of the French; and Lord Lyons, Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

With that paper the aforesaid Ministers have submitted the text of a Convention which was concluded at London on the 31st October last, between the Sovereigns before-named, with the view of obtaining, through a common action, the redress of their grievances against the Republic of Mexico.

In the preamble, the High Contracting Parties say that they have been placed, by the arbitrary and vexatious conduct of the authorities of the Republic of Mexico, under a necessity for exacting from the authorities a more effective protection for the persons and property of their subjects, as well as the execution of obligations contracted with them by the Republic of Mexico, and have agreed to conclude a Convention between themselves, for the purpose of combining their common action in the case.

In the first Article the High Contracting Parties bind themselves to make, immediately after the signing of the Convention, the necessary arrangements to send to the shores of Mexico, land and sea forces combined, the effective number of which shall be determined in a further exchange of communications between the Governments, but the total of which must be sufficient to enable them to seize and occupy the various fortifications and military positions of the Mexican sea-coast. Also, that the Commanders of the allied forces shall be authorized to accomplish such other operations as may, on the spot, be deemed most suitable for realizing the end specified in the preamble, and especially for insuring the safety of foreign residents. And that all the measures which are thus to be carried into effect shall be taken in the name and on account of the High Contracting Parties, without distinction of the particular nationality of the forces employed in executing them.

In the IInd Article the High Contracting Parties bind themselves not to seek for themselves, in the employment of the coercive measures foreseen by the present Convention, any acquisition of territory, or any peculiar advantage, and not to exercise, in the subsequent affairs of Mexico, any influence of a character to impair the right of the Mexican nation to choose, and fully to constitute, the form of its own government.

In the IIIrd Article the High Contracting Parties agree that a Commission, composed of three Commissioners, one appointed by each of the Contracting Powers, shall be established, with full power to determine all questions which may arise from the employment and distribution of the sums of money which shall be received from Mexico, having regard to the respective rights of the Contracting Parties.

In the IVth Article, the High Contracting Parties, expressing the desire that the measures which it is their intention to adopt may not have an exclusive character, and recognizing the fact that the Government of the United States, like themselves, has claims of its own to enforce against the Mexican Republic, agree that immediately after the signing of the present Convention a copy of it shall be communicated to the Government of the United States, and that this Government shall be invited to accede to it, and that, in anticipation of such accession, their respective Ministers at Washington shall be provided with full powers to conclude and sign, collectively or severally, with a Plenipotentiary of the United States, to be designated by the President, such an instrument. But as the High Contracting Parties would expose themselves, in making any delay in carrying into effect Articles I and II of the Convention, to peril in the end which they wish to attain, they have agreed not to defer, with a view to obtaining the accession of the United States, the commencement of the stipulated operations beyond the period at which their combined forces may be united in the vicinity of Vera Cruz.

The Plenipotentiaries in their note to the Undersigned invite the United States to accede to the Convention. The Undersigned having submitted the subject to the President will proceed to communicate his views thereon.

First, as the Undersigned has heretofore had the honour to inform each of the Plenipotentiaries now addressed, the President does not feel himself at liberty to question, and he does not question, that the Sovereigns represented have undoubted right to decide for themselves the fact whether they have sustained grievances, and to resort to war with Mexico for the redress thereof, and have a right, also, to levy the war severally or jointly.

Secondly, the United States have a deep interest, which, however, they are happy to believe is an interest held by them in common with the High Contracting Powers and with all other civilized States, that neither of the Sovereigns by whom the Convention has been concluded shall seek or obtain any acquisition of territory, or any advantage peculiar to itself, and not equally left open to the United States and every other civilized

State, within the territories of Mexico; and especially that neither one nor all of the Contracting Parties shall, as a result or consequence of the hostilities to be inaugurated under the Convention, exercise in the subsequent affairs of Mexico any influence of a character to impair the right of the Mexican people to choose and freely to constitute the form of its own government.

The Undersigned renews on this occasion the acknowledgment heretofore given, that each of the High Contracting Parties had informed the United States, substantially, that they recognized this interest; and he is authorized to express the satisfaction of the President with the terms in which that recognition is clearly embodied in the Treaty itself.

It is true, as the High Contracting Parties assume, that the United States have, on their part, claims to urge against Mexico. Upon due consideration, however, the President is of opinion that it would be inexpedient to seek satisfaction of these claims at this time, through an act of accession to the Convention. Among the reasons for this decision which the Undersigned is authorized to assign, are, first, that the United States, so far as it is practicable, prefer to adhere to a traditional policy recommended to them by the Father of their country, and confirmed by a happy experience, which forbids their making alliances with foreign nations. Secondly, Mexico being a neighbour of the United States on this continent, and possessing a system of government similar to our own in many of its important features, the United States habitually cherish a decided goodwill towards that Republic, and a lively interest in its security, prosperity, and welfare.

Animated by these sentiments, the United States do not feel inclined to resort to forcible remedies for their claims at the present moment, when the Government of Mexico is deeply disturbed by faction within, and exposed to war with foreign nations; and, of course, the same sentiments render them still more disinclined to allied war against Mexico than to war to be urged against her by themselves alone.

The Undersigned is further authorized to state to the Plenipotentiaries, for the information of the Sovereigns of Spain, France, and Great Britain, that the United States are so earnestly anxious for the safety and welfare of the Republic of Mexico, that they have already empowered their Minister residing there to enter into a Treaty with the Mexican Republic, conceding to it some material aid and advantages which, it is hoped, may enable that Republic to satisfy the just claims and demands of the said Sovereigns, and to avert the war which those Sovereigns have agreed among each other to levy against Mexico. The Sovereigns need not be informed that this proposal to Mexico has been made, not in hostility to them, but with a knowledge of the proceedings frankly communicated to them, and with the hope that they might find, through the increased ability of Mexico to result from the Treaty, and her willingness to treat with them upon just terms, a mode of arresting the hostilities which it is the object of the Convention now under consideration to inaugurate.

What has thus far been done by the American Minister at Mexico under these instructions has not yet become known to this Government, and the information is looked for with deep interest.

Should these negotiations offer any sufficient ground on which to justify a proposition to the High Contracting Parties in behalf of Mexico, the Undersigned will hasten to submit such a proposition to those Powers. But it is to be understood, first, that Mexico shall have acceded to such a Treaty; and secondly, that it shall be acceptable to the President and Senate of the United States.

In the meantime the High Contracting Parties are informed that the President deems it his duty that a naval force should remain in the Gulf of Mexico, sufficient to look after the interests of American citizens in Mexico during the conflict which may arise between the High Contracting Parties and that Republic; and, secondly, that the American Minister residing in Mexico be authorized to seek such conference in Mexico with the belligerent parties as may guard either of them against inadvertent injury to the just rights of the United States, if any such shall be endangered.

The Undersigned having thus submitted all the views and sentiments of this Government on this important subject to the High Contracting Parties in a spirit of peace and friendship not only towards Mexico, but towards the High Contracting Parties themselves, feels assured that there will be nothing in the watchfulness which it is thus proposed to exercise that can afford any cause for anxiety to any of the parties in question.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

No. 103.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received December 23.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 9, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a collective note, by which M. Tassara, M. Mercier, and I have acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Seward's note of the 4th instant, conveying the refusal of the United States' Government to accede to the Convention of the 31st October for combined operations against Mexico.

I purpose to communicate a copy of Mr. Seward's note to Sir Charles Wyke, sending it under flying-seal to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 103.

MM. Tassara and Mercier, and Lord Lyons, to Mr. Seward.

Washington, ce 7 Décembre, 1861.

LES Soussignés, Envoyés Extraordinaires et Ministres Plénipotentiaires de leurs Majestés la Reine d'Espagne, l'Empereur des Français, et la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, ont l'honneur d'accuser réception à l'honorable Secrétaire d'Etat de la note qu'il a bien voulu leur adresser sous le date du 4 de ce mois, en réponse à celle par laquelle ils lui ont communiqué le texte de la Convention conclue à Londres entre leurs Souverains dans le but de régler par une action commune leurs différends avec la République Mexicaine, et ont invité le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis à accéder à cet Acte. Ils vont s'empresse de transmettre cette réponse à leurs Cours respectives.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Signé)

GABRIEL J. TASSARA.
HENRI MERCIER.
LYONS.

No. 104.

Earl Russell to M. de Isturiz.

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, December 24, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 22nd instant in which, in pursuance of instructions from your Government, you have had the goodness to communicate to me the course which will be pursued if the Spanish fleet at the Havana should have left for Mexico prior to the arrival of the allied squadrons, and should have taken possession of Vera Cruz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 105.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 27, 1861.

I INCLOSE, for your information, copies of despatches from Lord Lyons,* reporting the answer which the Government of the United States have returned to the invitation addressed to it to accede to the Convention of the 31st of October for combined operations in Mexico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 103.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received January 1, 1862.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, November 25, 1861.

BY the last mail I was enabled to give your Lordship some idea of the effect produced upon President Juarez and his Cabinet by the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatches of the 21st and 31st of August last, while I at the same time

* Nos. 97, 103, and 104.

explained to your Lordship for what reasons and to what extent I had taken upon myself the responsibility of modifying those instructions.

The result of these modifications was, as I had the honour of stating in my despatch of the 28th ultimo, that I obtained a starting-point from which to commence my operations with some chance of success. It would of course have been far easier to demand from this Government a plain "yes" or "no" to the ultimatum I was instructed to present to them, but I felt sure Her Majesty's Government, determined though they were to obtain from Mexico the satisfaction that had been so long denied them, would prefer doing so by ordinary means to employing force.

In order, therefore, to obtain what was required, I did not hesitate to adopt a line of conduct which, by being somewhat more palatable to the susceptible Mexicans, would not in reality interfere with the requirements of Her Majesty's Government.

Your Lordship will have seen that, even under these circumstances, it was only after the greatest trouble I obtained the outline of a Convention that was embodied in my despatch of the 28th ultimo above alluded to. Since that time my difficulties have greatly increased.

I nevertheless continued my negotiations with this Government through the medium of their Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom I consented to treat unofficially at the Legation; and it will now be my duty to lay before your Lordship the results which have been arrived at.

First of all comes the reduction of the Tariff. I had informed Señor Zamacona that unless the Government consented to a *bond fide* reduction, it would be useless for us to think of negotiating a Convention having for its basis the old system of duties; that Her Majesty's Government insisted upon this point, and that it would be far better for his Government to yield with a good grace than eventually to be forced into compliance with our demands.

This in the eyes of the Minister for Foreign Affairs seemed an insurmountable difficulty, for, said he, Congress will be certain to throw out any Bill that carries with it even the semblance of foreign interference. This I know to be too true, and I therefore proposed that the reduction should come apparently from Congress itself, as a voluntary act resulting from the Report of the Mixed Commission which some time back had been named for examining into the state of the present Tariff.

This idea struck Señor Zamacona as a good one, and he promised to do his best to have it carried out: fresh obstacles, however, soon presented themselves: while intrigues of every kind were being practised to prevent Congress sanctioning any reformation whatever in the Tariff.

Luckily at this moment the Finance Department was offered to a person of considerable merit, socially and politically, Señor Gonzales Echeverria, who had just returned from Europe for the purpose of settling his affairs in the country previous to leaving it for good.

When, however, Señor Echeverria looked into the state of his Department, he found everything in such hopeless confusion that he refused to undertake the charge. I was then asked to see him as a last hope; during our interview I was so much struck with his good common-sense, and with the clear notion he had formed of his country's condition, that I tried to persuade him to accept office; at first he refused, telling me that it was too late to do any good, and that he was convinced nothing but foreign intervention could now save Mexico, but I am happy to say that I at least got him to consent to my request.

His acceptance of office, added to my carefully abstaining from menacing Congress in any way, and to Señor Zamacona's untiring exertions, seem to have produced the desired effect, for when the Tariff-Commission a few days ago presented to Congress their proposed reform, it was duly taken into consideration, and though not accepted as it stood, was not *de facto* rejected.

According to the existing Tariff, goods, besides paying high import duties, were compelled to satisfy endless additional duties after leaving the Custom-house, and before coming into the market. The Commission, therefore, proposed a reduction of 50 per cent. on the import duties, and a further reduction, though not of an equal amount, on the additional duties.

I at once, upon this plan of reform becoming known, called a meeting of the British merchants here, in order to obtain their opinion in the matter. They one and all owned that the reduction was very much in favour of trade generally, but Mr. Whitehead, agent for the London bondholders, considered that as the assignments due to the body he represented came out of the import duties, and as those duties were to be diminished by one-half, whereas the additional duties, which were not taxed with assignments, were not reduced in the same proportion, he would be the loser, inasmuch as it would require

the introduction of double the amount of goods annually to enable Government to pay the bondholders their assigned quota of import duties, and that such an event could hardly be expected with the additional duties at so high a figure.

I explained that so long as Mexico by reducing her Tariff really benefited trade, we had no right to insist upon her effectually crippling herself for the sake of being able actually to square the balance-sheet of the bondholder; or fix the exact ticket to be placed on each separate piece of shirting that came into the country.

Congress, however, threw out the proposal for a reduction of 50 per cent., and passed a law, copy of which I beg to inclose herewith, by which Government was authorized to reform the Tariff upon a basis of 40 per cent. reduction on the import duties, and to reduce the additional duties by about 42 per cent., making a clear reduction on all duties to which foreign goods are liable, of somewhat more than 41 per cent.

This plan was preferable to the first for many reasons: though it was not quite so beneficial for trade generally, yet it affected pretty equally both the bondholder and the merchant, and had the immense advantage of taking the Tariff reform out of the hands of Congress, and placing it under the sole control of Government.

When Señor Zamacona asked me if I would consent to the system of reduction on the above basis, I told him I could have no objection to it, if Government would add a clause clearly specifying that neither as regarding import, export, or additional duties, would any change whatever be allowed without at least six months' notice being given.

Here a fresh dispute arose, as it appeared to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that my request implied a doubt as to the honesty of his Government. I insisted, however, upon this clause as a *sine quâ non*. Had I not done so, the Government might at any moment have added to their list of additional duties upon the plea of necessity, and so entirely annulled the advantages of the new Tariff system.

Besides the above clause, I have obtained a further one, providing for the Tariff coming into operation within four months of its publication. The Government wanted it to come into operation two months after date, while the merchants required six months' law, so that I had no alternative but to take a period between the two.

This, my Lord, is the outline of the proposed new Tariff; it will not be possible to have the Tariff itself worked out in detail for this mail, and I can therefore merely give your Lordship an idea of the result that will be produced, by inclosing a comparative statement of duties payable on a supposed cargo under the old and new systems; by which it will be seen that a cargo of merchandize which is now liable to 100,000 dollars import duties, and to 81,000 dollars additional duties, would, under the new system, if honestly carried out, be subject to 60,000 dollars import duties, and 46,500 dollars additional duties; thus paying 106,500 dollars for all duties, instead of 181,000 dollars, this being equivalent, as I stated above, to a reduction on the whole duties paid by foreign merchandize, of somewhat more than 41 per cent.

The Tariff question being thus satisfactorily disposed of, I set to work again on the proposed Convention, but found, as I anticipated, that in the interval fresh difficulties had sprung up, and that it would be absolutely necessary to modify the plan that we had originally proposed. This was a matter of comparative indifference to me, provided I obtained the essential points necessary to be secured.

I will not weary your Lordship by giving a detailed account of daily interviews with Señor Zamacona, in which as soon as one difficulty was got rid of another sprung up, and this in endless succession, until finally, on the 21st instant, I succeeded in persuading Señor Zamacona to sign with me a Convention, copy of which I have herewith the honour to inclose.

In Article I, the long-disputed question of the payment of those sums of money robbed from the conducta and the British Legation is at length satisfactorily settled, by an extra assignment corresponding to 10 per cent. of the import duties to be taken out of that portion of the additional duties commonly known under the denomination of "mejoras materiales."

In Article II, 6 per cent. on the 660,000 dollars stolen from the Legation, and 12 per cent. on the money still due from the conducta robbery, is secured by an assignment on the same fund, to date from the time the money was taken.

In Article III, all Treaties, Conventions, and Agreements heretofore concluded between the two High Contracting Parties are declared to be binding in their totality on both Parties, and the Supreme Decrees of the 14th of October, 1850, and the 23rd of January, 1857, are likewise to remain in full force and vigour in all that concerns the London bondholders.

Article IV settles the manner of payment of such sums of money owing to the London

bondholders and the Convention bondholders as were in the hands of the Custom-house authorities at the time all payments were suspended by the Law of the 17th of July, together with 6 per cent. interest thereon.

Article V secures the interests of the French Convention and the arrears due on other claims, as arranged by Admiral Penaud: after the payment of which the quota belonging to the British Convention bondholders shall be augmented, as before agreed on, by 2 per cent. additional.

Article VI gives the British Consuls and bondholders' Agents at all the ports in the Republic the real *bond fide* powers of Interventors, without outraging the national feelings as would have been done by the means proposed in the ultimatum.

Article VII secures the due and punctual payment to the bondholders of their proper share of the duties to be paid on every cargo arriving in a manner never before obtained, thereby saving the immense loss inflicted on them by the irregular way in which these payments have hitherto been made to them.

Article VIII settles the date from which the several assignments above alluded to shall commence.

Article IX frees the Mexican Government from the responsibilities of a debtor, from the time these several assignments are paid to the Agents of the bondholders at the several ports.

Article X stipulates that in all concerning either the appointment of Interventors with fuller powers, or the payment of assignments such as those above alluded to, no advantage shall hereafter be accorded to any foreign nation that is not by the same act also accorded to Her Majesty's Government.

Such, my Lord, is the Convention that was duly signed and sealed on the 21st instant by Señor Zamacona and myself, after the exchange of a couple of notes, copies of which I have the honour herewith to inclose.

The object of these communications was, on his part, to secure the passing of the Convention through Congress, as by the tone of them it would appear that the Government had been acting from a spirit of justice, instead of being under the undue pressure of menaces from this Legation. On mine, it was to aid him in this laudable effort, as well also as to secure an official declaration from this Government, binding them to the reduction of the Tariff which I had in reality made the basis of my operations.

I conceive that by the arrangement above detailed I had secured all the real objects we had in view, and that with the great advantage of obtaining them by means of persuasion instead of by the employment of force.

That a display of such force would have been temporarily necessary to carry it out, I think probable; but that once made, and the determination of Her Majesty's Government not to be trifled with thus exemplified, all would have gone on smoothly, and we should thus have obtained all we required.

How the arrangement I had thus concluded has been nullified by Congress having thrown out the Convention by a large majority, must form the subject of a separate despatch, in which I will detail all that has taken place here since its rejection.

Had it been ratified by that Body, I should have made it the foundation for a final settlement with this Government of all pending claims, as well as for obtaining compensation for the relatives of such British subjects as have been murdered here up to the present time with impunity. Such an arrangement I could, I doubt not, have made during the presence in these waters of a powerful English squadron, but now the obstinacy of the Legislature has destroyed my combinations, and reduces the settlement of these questions to the future employment of brute force.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

Law fixing the Bases for the Reduction of the Tariff.

LE Citoyen Benito Juarez, Président Constitutionnel des Etats-Unis Mexicains, à leurs habitants faisons savoir :

Que le Secrétariat du Souverain Congrès de l'Union m'a adressé le Décret suivant :

Le Congrès de l'Union a cru devoir décréter ce qui suit :

Art. I. Le Gouvernement est autorisé à dresser un nouveau Tarif des douanes maritimes et frontières en opérant, dans celui qui est en vigueur, toutes les réformes que l'expérience a démontré être indispensables pour concilier les intérêts du trésor, du commerce, de l'agriculture, et de l'industrie.

Art. II. En agissant ainsi, il se soumettra aux bases suivantes :

1. Il dictera toutes les mesures indispensables afin que le travail ne fasse pas défaut aux agriculteurs, aux industriels, et aux artisans.

2. Il pourra réduire jusqu'à un quarante pour cent les droits d'importation que paient actuellement les articles étrangers, conformément au Tarif en vigueur.

3. Il établira les droits additionnels suivants :

Le municipal, tel qu'il est aujourd'hui ;

Celui de "mejoras materiales," trente pour cent sur les droits d'importation ;

Celui d'internation, quinze pour cent sur les mêmes droits ;

Celui de "contra-registro," trente pour cent sur les mêmes droits ;

Celui de deux et demi pour cent pour le Ministère de Fomento.

Art. III. Le Tarif que dressera le Gouvernement, suivant les règles établies dans l'Article qui précède, ne pourra être modifié, en tout ou en partie, tant que le Congrès ne dictera pas de nouvelles bases, en vertu de ses facultés constitutionnelles.

Donné dans le Salon des Séances du Congrès de l'Union, à Mexico, le 15 Novembre, 1861.

(Signed)

MANUEL DUBLAN, *Député Président.*

JUAN N. GUZMAN, *Député Secrétaire.*

M. M. OVANDO, *Député Secrétaire.*

Pourquoi j'ordonne que le présent soit imprimé, publié, mis en circulation et dûment exécuté.

Palais du Gouvernement Fédéral, à Mexico, le 18 Novembre, 1861.

(Signé)

BENITO JUAREZ.

Au citoyen José Gonzalez Echeverria,

Ministre des Finances et du Crédit Public.

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

SCHEDULE showing the amount of duties that would be paid under the reduced Tariff voted by Congress, by a cargo of merchandize which now pays 100,000 dollars import duties.

Under the Present System.

Import duties	..	..	..	..	..	100,000
Additional duties :—						\$
Mejoras materiales	..	..	..	..	20,000	
Internation	..	..	..	..	10,000	
Contra-registro	..	..	..	..	30,000	
Railway or amortization	..	..	..	..	15,000	
Departmental	..	..	..	..	6,000	
					81,000	
Total amount of Duties	..	..	..	..	181,000	\$

Under Tariff voted by Congress.

Import duties	..	..	..	..	..	60,000
Additional duties :—						
Mejoras materiales	..	..	..	..	18,000	
Internation	..	..	..	..	9,000	
Contra-registro	..	..	..	..	18,000	
2½ per cent. of Ministry of Fomento	..	..	..	..	1,500	
					46,500	
Total amount of Duties	..	..	..	..	106,500	
Showing a reduction of	..	..	..	..	74,500	
Equal to 41½ per cent. on the whole duties.						

Mexico, November 25, 1861.

(Signed)

HORACE JOHNSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 106.

Convention between Her Britannic Majesty and the Republic of Mexico for the Settlement of various Questions now pending between the two Governments.

DESIROUS of putting an end to the present suspension of diplomatic relations between the British Legation and the Government of Mexico by an arrangement removing the cause of such suspension, and at the same time settling certain other

questions in which the Government of Her Majesty and that of the Republic are mutually interested, they have resolved to conclude a Treaty for that purpose, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Mexico;

And his Excellency the President of the Republic of Mexico, Señor Don Manuel Maria de Zamacona, Minister for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c., &c.;

Who, having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The sum still remaining due to British subjects of the moneys abstracted from the conducta at the Laguna Seca, as well as the six hundred and sixty thousand dollars forcibly taken from the British Legation in the month of November last, shall be repaid to the lawful owners thereof by an assignment made for that purpose by the Mexican Government corresponding to ten per cent. of the import duties, to be taken from that portion of the additional duties commonly known under the denomination of "mejoras materiales."

ARTICLE II.

The rate of interest due from the time when the money was taken to be paid on both these sums from the same fund shall be as follows: namely, six per cent. per annum on the six hundred and sixty thousand dollars, and twelve per cent. per annum on the remainder of the money due to British subjects from the moneys abstracted from the conducta at the Laguna Seca.

ARTICLE III.

All Treaties, Conventions, and Agreements heretofore concluded between the two High Contracting Parties shall remain binding in their totality on both parties in all affecting British and Mexican interests; and the Supreme Decrees of the fourteenth of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty, and the twenty-third of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, do likewise remain in full force and vigour in all that concerns the London bondholders.

ARTICLE IV.

Such sums of money owing to the London bondholders and Convention bondholders as were in the hands of the Custom-house authorities at the time all payments were suspended by the Law of the seventeenth of July last, shall be paid to the owners thereof, together with six per cent. interest thereon, out of the same fund that is set apart for the Legation and Laguna Seca claims, when those shall have been liquidated.

ARTICLE V.

Nothing contained in this Convention shall in any way interfere with the stipulations of other Agreements or Conventions by which the goods imported in French vessels are exempt from contributing to British assignments until the French Convention shall have been wholly paid off, as well as the arrears due on other claims, as arranged with Admiral Penaud, have also been liquidated, when the quota belonging to the British Convention bondholders shall be augmented, as agreed on, by two per cent. additional.

ARTICLE VI.

The British Consular Agents and Agents of bondholders at the different ports of the Republic shall be entitled to exact the production of all Custom-house books and papers as may have reference to their clients' interests, and to call for ships' manifests, bills of lading, and all other documents which for the above-named purpose they may consider it necessary to examine.

Every month a statement of the duties incurred, and of the liquidation of the assignments due to the London bondholders and the Convention bondholders at each of the Custom-houses, shall be delivered to the British Consul resident at the port, and in those places where there is no British Consul, such statements shall be given to the Agents of the respective funds, provided there be any such on the spot.

ARTICLE VII.

In order to ensure with every certainty the fulfilment of the conditions contained in the preceding Articles, the assignments made over to the British creditors shall henceforth be represented by certificates to be issued by the Ministry of Finance, according to the Regulations which shall be framed by said Ministry, and no importer will be permitted in future to pay the duties on his cargo without at the same time paying said assignments, which shall not be paid in cash or in any other form except in the said certificates, under the penalty of a second payment of double the amount, one half in certificates, and the other in cash, which latter half shall be given to the informer of the fraud.

The Minister of Finance shall deliver a sufficient quantity of said certificates to the representatives of both classes of bondholders in Mexico, who shall be required to keep enough of them on hand, both in this city and the ports, to enable the importers to obtain them with the facility required.

For greater security these certificates must be signed by the representatives of the aforesaid bondholders, as well as by the aforesaid Agents, and after liquidation they shall be remitted by the Collectors of the maritime and frontier Custom-houses directly to the Minister of Finance, for the purpose of enabling the Government to take due note thereof in forming the account current of the respective debts.

ARTICLE VIII.

The assignment of ten per cent. of the duties alluded to in Article I for the purposes above specified shall commence from the date of the signature of this Convention; and the assignments belonging to the London bondholders and to the Convention bondholders, secured to them by Article III, shall begin from the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

ARTICLE IX.

It is understood that the Mexican Government shall be free from the responsibility of a debtor to a creditor in so far as concerns any such sums as shall have been paid by them at the end of each month to the agents of the respective bondholders, when a liquidation of the sums so paid and received is duly made out and signed by the authorities of the Custom-houses and the agents at the ports.

ARTICLE X.

In settling with the other foreign creditors of the Republic the difficulties to which the Law of the 17th of July last has given rise, no advantage shall be accorded to them, with regard to the time at which the payment of the assignments shall be renewed, nor as regards the control that they may have in the Custom-houses, which shall not by the same act be conceded to the British creditors.

ARTICLE XI.

The present Convention shall be ratified by Her Britannic Majesty and by the Congress of the Mexican Republic, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London as soon as possible within the space of six months.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto their respective seals.

Done at Mexico this twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

(L.S.)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

(L.S.)

MANUEL MA. DE ZAMACONA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 106.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Zamacona.

Sir,

Mexico, November 20, 1861.

THE result of the various conferences I have had with your Excellency appears to be that no real difficulty now exists to prevent our coming to a perfect understanding on the subject which gave rise to those conferences, in a manner alike satisfactory to the Governments we have the honour respectively to represent.

In order to attain so desirable an end, and to remove the evils caused by the Law of the 17th of July last, as well also as to prevent any future disagreement arising from the consequences thereof, it becomes necessary now to put in writing what we have already verbally agreed on, and to settle by a formal instrument the due execution of the following conditions:—

1. Delivery by your Government of the money robbed from the British Legation in the month of November last, amounting to the sum of 660,000 dollars, as well also of what was abstracted from the *Laguna Seca conducta*, which originally amounted to 400,000 dollars, but part of which has since been restored to its rightful owners.

2. That all arrears due to the bondholders arising from the suspension of payments of Custom-house duties formally consigned to them by the Dunlop and Aldham compacts, as well as the British Convention, shall be refunded, of course including the payments already deposited in the hands of the Custom-house authorities at the time of such suspension of payments, but which had not yet been made over to the agents of said bondholders.

3. The payment of interest on all sums above specified, from the date of their abstraction or detention, as compensation to the owners thereof for the loss and inconvenience to which they have been subjected by these arbitrary proceedings.

4. That the British Consular Agents at the ports shall be authorized by the Government to examine the books and render an account of the receipts of the several Custom-houses there, such Agents receiving directly the assignments for the bondholders from the importers, in a manner hereafter to be agreed on between us.

As I believe we are entirely of the same opinion with reference to the advantages to be obtained by a reduction of the Tariff, I trust that your Government, with this object in view, will adopt some measure of reform in this branch of your Administration, so comprehensive in its nature as entirely to remove the evils caused by the present high rate of duties, which are as prejudicial to foreign commerce as they are to the best interests of the Republic.

By a frank acceptance of these conditions no obstacle will then remain to prevent a renewal of official intercourse between your Government and this Legation, which, without such an arrangement, will be finally broken off, and thus lead to consequences fatal to the friendly relations which it is so desirable to maintain between the two countries.

Awaiting your reply, I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 106.

Señor Zamacona to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Government House, November 21, 1861.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has had the honour to receive the note, dated yesterday, which his Excellency the English Minister, Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, was pleased to write him.

The Undersigned after his repeated conferences with his Excellency Her Britannic Majesty's Minister is as much convinced as his Excellency that there does not really exist any difficulty for the re-establishment of the ordinary relations between Mexico and Great Britain. He is entirely of the opinion of Sir Charles Wyke as to the great interest that the two countries have in maintaining and drawing still closer their relations; and the sincere desire to re-establish them has doubtless given rise to the conciliatory spirit that has reciprocally prevailed in the conferences held for that purpose, and which has so much contributed to attain it.

The question pending since a year, relative to the abstraction made in November last by the usurpers of the public power of a sum belonging to the holders of Mexican bonds in London, and deposited in the *Calle de Capuchinas*, gives this Government an opportunity of showing its conciliatory and willing spirit, and its desire to terminate all the difficulties pending with Great Britain. Notwithstanding that the Government of the Republic has protested against the responsibility that might be laid to its charge on account of that odious attempt, it has also protested its desire to prevent as far as possible the losses that the holders of bonds have thereby suffered, and therefore agrees to facilitate to them the reimbursement of the sum robbed, if the said holders of bonds cede to the Republic their action for indemnity from the produce of the property of the perpetrators of the crime that has been or may be sequestered. This concession, with

which the Government of Mexico responds to those which his Excellency Her Britannic Majesty's Minister has made in the arrangement of this affair, removes one of the principal difficulties pending between the two nations. This Government does not then make any objection to the acceptance of the conditions contained in the note of his Excellency Sir Charles Wyke, bearing yesterday's date.

As regards the Tariff at present in force in the Republic, the Undersigned believes that, in fact, a reform in this matter in a liberal sense will be equally beneficial to the nation as to the foreign commerce; and as this Government is authorized by Congress to make it, it is at present occupied with carrying out this work. By means of it will be removed the ills which, as indicated by Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, are caused by the amount of the duties at present levied on goods imported; and his Excellency will perceive it, by simply knowing that the Government, following the rules that the Congress has laid down for it, and the principles of liberal political economy, will carry out the following bases in the new Tariff that will be published in a few days:—

That the reduction on the import duties is to consist in 40 per cent. on the present amounts;

That when the reform, which is to be put into operation four months after its publication, has been once made, no change shall be able to be made in the import, export or additional duties, without informing the commercial body six months beforehand;

And that in the new Tariff shall not be included the Article that figured in the project lately presented by the Committee of Finance of the Congress, which authorized the States of the coast to place duties on the export of their own products.

The Undersigned indulges in the same belief as that entertained by his Excellency Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, that after the declarations contained in this note, and after the points to which it refers have been consigned in a formal Act, for which this Government is ready, there will not be any obstacle to prevent the renewal of relations between it and that Legation, and drawing still closer those bonds of sympathy and common interest which unite the two nations.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) MANUEL MA. DE ZAMACONA.

No. 107.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received January 1, 1862.)

My Lord,

Mexico, November 28, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an Address signed by some English merchants and other persons resident in this city, which, although addressed to me, I am requested to forward to Her Majesty's Government.

I likewise transmit my reply thereto, to which I beg to call your Lordship's attention, as it disposes of the principal grievance there complained of.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

Messrs. Graham, Geaves, and Co., and others, to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Mexico, November 25, 1861.

WE, the undersigned British merchants and others, consider it our duty to address you at the present moment in defence of the interests which have been confided to us, as also to express our opinion in the present critical state of affairs.

The particulars which we have been able to learn regarding the Convention you had agreed upon with the Mexican Government being rather vague and imperfect, we are hardly able to judge of the ultimate advantages which might have accrued to British commerce had the said Convention been ratified by Congress; but in the absence of any official communication on the subject, we are necessarily led to believe that the version given by the principal journal of this city, "El Siglo," is at least tolerably correct, although we must confess that we doubt of its entire authenticity, being, as we are, unwilling to believe that any arrangement can have been contemplated which only provided for the redress and liquidation of the larger and more prominent claims, to the

exclusion of the numerous smaller, but equally deserving, claims of British residents in this country.

By the English papers which have lately arrived, we have also been made acquainted with the answer which Earl Russell addressed on the 3rd of October to Messrs. Rothschild, and other merchants of England interested in the Mexican trade, in answer to their petition asking for that protection for the lives of their fellow-countrymen, and for their own property in Mexico, which Englishmen have a right to expect from their Government.

We have followed with the utmost care and anxiety every step of your negotiations with the Mexican Government, and we now beg most respectfully to manifest our decided opinion that whilst we consider the course you have pursued since your arrival in Mexico as entirely in accordance with the intentions expressed by Earl Russell, and whilst we fully acknowledge the great exertions which you have personally made to secure every advantage compatible with what we understand to be your instructions, we cannot but regard the views taken by the Home Government as entirely erroneous with respect to the actual state of the country, and their proposed measures as altogether insufficient to obtain either redress for past outrages or to ensure any sort of confidence or security for the future.

You have obtained the passing of an Act of Congress which authorizes the reduction of the Tariff, but it cannot be denied that this innovation will be quite as advantageous to Mexico as it will be to England, and therefore it cannot be looked upon as a concession which Mexico makes, but simply as an important improvement which the country has resolved upon in consequence of the suggestion made by England to this effect.

There are two points at issue in the present case: the first being the due reparation, as far as practicable, of the numerous outrages upon Englishmen and upon the English flag; the second, the adoption of such measures as may check the recurrence of such outrages, and by degrees put a stop to the anarchy and consequent ruin which has been spreading over this country for several years.

We fully comprehend that the Home Government look upon the whole question with repugnance, caused principally by the difficulties which surround every plan of action, and consequently we refrain from entering into the consideration of the second point; for on the one hand, we feel perfectly confident that you are fully impressed with the importance of the question, and that your own personal views must coincide with ours, whilst the limits to which we desire to reduce this note could never suffice to enter into such a vast and complicated question.

As Englishmen, however, we think it our duty to use every effort in our power, and to avail ourselves of every privilege which our Constitution grants us, to induce Her Majesty's Government to exact that reparation for the past which may at least prove that our countrymen's blood is not to be wantonly shed, and England sneered at without the country which has tolerated such atrocities being made to atone for them.

We maintain that the assassination of a British Consul and numerous fellow-countrymen, the marching through the streets of Englishmen as prisoners of war under the most unwarrantable circumstances, the robbery of English property by armed forces, headed by leading men of the acknowledged Governments, and other acts of almost equally atrocious character, are not to be atoned for by the simple payment of an insignificant sum of money; we maintain that England cannot allow a Mexican Minister of Finance to appropriate sums of money assigned to her under the most solemn Diplomatic Conventions without demanding something more than the mere repayment of the sums so taken. The Ministers who authorize these acts know full well that it requires three or four months at least before the action of Her Majesty's Government can be brought to bear against them, and they invariably take care to resign their posts before the expiration of such time; they care little for the reclamations which their successors may have to deal with: but is it anything more than common justice to demand that the whole Administration or the country should be made aware that similar outrages must be atoned for a little sooner or later?

When all our grievances arose from the acts of one party in the country, we understood too well that nothing could be done; but when we witnessed the seizure of the bondholders' funds by the Church party, and the seizure of the Tampico conducta by the Constitutional party, we had every reason to consider that the chief difficulty towards exacting reparation was removed; nor can there be any essential difference between one *de facto* Government robbing money deposited in the hands of the bondholders' agent and the next Administration robbing their assignments on the coast.

We do not wish you to believe that we in any way ask for impossibilities, nor that

we wish to take up certain cases as pretexts to force Her Majesty's Government into useless and difficult military expeditions; we do not even pretend that in a country like Mexico the punishment of the precise perpetrators of the crimes should be insisted upon: but we see little difficulty to the penalty being paid by the country.

After seeing that Her Majesty herself considered the question worthy of being mentioned in her Speech from the throne; after being assured that the matter was and had been long under consideration; and after waiting for perhaps the most propitious moment that could possibly present itself, we are bound to say that the conduct of England is likely to impress foreign nations with but a very poor and inadequate amount of respect or consideration if the whole list of outrages is to be atoned for, and even passed over in silence, on receipt of a sum of money. Some of our number are interested in the British Convention Fund, many of us have private claims against the Mexican Government, whilst others are only indirectly interested in any settlement or treaty which may be made; but we all unite to express in the most respectful but at the same time in the most emphatic terms, that we look upon the precise per-centage of duties which may be exacted as of no importance whatever, compared to the question of the securities and guarantees which may and, as we submit, ought to be demanded, and more particularly to the just and, so to speak, national reparation on the part of Mexico for past outrages which if committed by a private individual would be classed as criminal in the highest degree.

The principle of allowing any outrages to be committed for nothing more or less than a certain price is surely too dangerous a one to be tolerated by England. The sacred character of international Treaties would by this means be entirely destroyed, and it is not merely the lives and property of English residents in Mexico, but of those in remote countries all over the world, that would be exposed to dangers which our Government is bound to ward off and protect us from, instead of tolerating them with comparative impunity. English miners, merchants, and colonists would, in one word, find themselves in a weaker and more difficult position than the natives of almost any other nation. Surely this cannot be the state of things which an English Cabinet can take any pride in creating or countenancing, nor can it be expected that British subjects can quietly and passively wait for such a result to be produced; and it is therefore that we wish through you to impress upon Her Majesty's Government that no arrangement should be entered into which does not embrace full reparation for every just British claim, whatever may have been its origin, atonement for the violation of Treaties, and ample guarantees for the future security of persons and property of British subjects resident within the Republic.

In conclusion, we beg to repeat that this present Address is not directed to you personally, and that we have the highest motives for respecting and appreciating your own exertions since your arrival as Her Majesty's Minister, but we most earnestly solicit that you will communicate our views to Her Majesty's Government, and at the same time trust that your experience of Mexico will induce you to support and advance our petition as the only means of obtaining any permanent improvement in the foreign trade of this country.

We have, &c.
(Signed) GRAHAM, GEAVES & CO.
(And 28 others.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

Sir C. Wyke to Messrs. Graham, Geaves, and Co., and others.

Gentlemen,

Mexico, November 28, 1861.

A CAREFUL perusal of your communication dated the 25th instant, which only reached me late in the afternoon of yesterday, has left me in doubt as to your precise object in requesting me to forward it to Her Majesty's Government.

It is not by an expression of your fears and anxieties in vague and general terms that any good result can be arrived at; such an address as the one you have sent should, to have any real value, embody the decided opinion, founded on your long experience here, as to the remedy to be applied with a view of removing the evils of which you so justly complain.

Had you consulted with me personally, and pointed out your wishes more distinctly, a more definite end might have been attained, and I should have been better enabled to forward those wishes by supporting them, than I now am by the mere receipt of such a letter as yours on the eve of the mail's departure for England.

T

The Convention of the 21st instant, to which you allude, was concluded for the purpose of binding this Government and nation to fulfil their engagements, in a positive and practical manner, to a large body of British subjects who have an immense stake in this country, and whose interests have hitherto been shamefully disregarded, from the fact of their being in part protected merely by agreements and memorandums passed between some of our naval officers and certain local authorities at the port of Vera Cruz, such authorities being at the time in open rebellion against a Government to which we had an accredited Minister at this capital. As some amongst your number were the sufferers by having no better guarantee than this, you could only have been benefited by exchanging it for the adequate protection of a solemn international obligation such as a Convention, which also secured the repayment of the moneys stolen from British Legation and the conducta, with 6 per cent. on the former and 12 per cent. on the latter, in compensation for the inconvenience to which the owners of such moneys have been subjected by the arbitrary and unjustifiable acts of two successive Governments.

These payments, and the due fulfilment of the engagements set aside by the Law of the 17th of July last, it was imperative for the honour of Her Majesty's Government should in the first instance be obtained, and hence the conclusion of the Convention above alluded to, which satisfactorily terminated a separate and distinct question, and would have naturally cleared the way for a settlement of the other British claims arising out of the numerous acts of violence against life and property, hitherto perpetrated with impunity against our fellow-subjects.

You little know me, Gentlemen, or the instructions I have received from Her Majesty's Government, if you suppose that with a British squadron in the waters of Vera Cruz, I should not obtain such reparation and compensation as is just and fair to demand of the Mexican Government for such outrages.

With regard to the opinion you express, that the views of Her Majesty's Government with respect to the actual state of this country are entirely erroneous, and the measures they propose adopting to obtain redress insufficient, I altogether differ from you, and I trust events will prove that I am not wrong in doing so.

You allude to the murder of a British Consul and numerous other countrymen, the marching through the streets of Englishmen as prisoners of war, the robbery of English property by armed forces, &c., its being atoned for by the simple payment of an insignificant sum of money; and further state that a Minister of Finance cannot be allowed to appropriate sums of money belonging to English subjects without demanding something more than the mere repayment of the sums so taken. The outrages on life and person you thus describe took place before my arrival in this country, and I am not aware that they have, or are likely to be, atoned for by the payment, as you state, of an insignificant sum of money.

With regard to the money taken from British subjects in the way you mention, something more will be exacted than repayment, in the shape of interest thereon, more or less in amount according to the circumstances of each particular case.

Reparation for all these outrages will be exacted by Her Majesty's Government, not from any particular set of men who happened to be in power when they were committed, but from the country which is held responsible for them, and I really cannot see, therefore, what you wish for more.

My foregoing remarks will have explained to you that the Convention I lately concluded with Señor Zamacona was never intended to settle these grievances, but was merely a preliminary step for removing those amongst them which, from their magnitude, were of the first importance; this fact I had clearly stated to some amongst you, whose signatures I was therefore surprised to see to the letter to which this is a reply.

You say that, by my having obtained the passing of an Act of Congress authorizing the reduction of the Tariff, I have only persuaded them to do that which is as advantageous to themselves as it is to us, and therefore it cannot be looked on as a concession which Mexico makes.

If you were aware of the many days and hours' labour it has taken me to persuade them of this fact, you would, I think, set more value on a concession which would never have been obtained unless it had formed the basis of the Convention I have so often alluded to.

This advantage, as well as the abrogation of the Law of the 17th of July by Congress, has been the result of my negotiations, which will now, therefore, I hope, appear to you in a less unfavourable light than when you addressed me on the 25th instant.

I thank you, Gentlemen, for the kind manner in which you mention the humble

services I have been able to render to you since my arrival in this country, but in doing so I venture to hope you will in future believe that there is not one amongst you who is more jealous of the honour of his country than is England's Representative in this Republic.

Your Address, together with this reply to it, shall be forwarded to Her Majesty's Government by to-morrow's mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 108.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received January 1, 1862.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, November 28, 1861.

GENERAL DOBLADO, Governor of the State of Guanajuato, who is at the head of about 8,000 men, is said to be on the eve of making a "pronunciamiento" with a view of getting himself elected President; but from the extreme caution of the man's character, I think that he is hardly likely to expose himself to the risk of failure which he thus would undoubtedly have to incur.

No. 109.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received January 1, 1862.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, November 28, 1861.

IN my despatch of the 25th instant I had the honour of laying before your Lordship, in detail, the business which had occupied my attention since the departure of the last European mail.

My labours, as your Lordship will have seen, terminated in my having obtained a considerable reduction in the existing Tariff, and in having signed such a Convention as promised to place our relations with the Mexican Government on a somewhat better footing than they have been for some time past.

It is to be sincerely regretted that Congress was so carried away by party-feeling as not to perceive the error they were committing in throwing out a Convention which, both in form and substance, avoided, as far as possible, any attack upon the honour and *amour-propre* of the nation, and yet held out to Mexico the means of coming to an equally satisfactory settlement of the difficulties with France and Spain whenever these two Powers demanded redress at their very doors.

Congress, as if frightened at what it had done, passed a Resolution on the 23rd instant abolishing the Law of the 17th of July, and stating that the Convention assignments should be again paid, as heretofore, to both classes of bondholders, as well also as those sums due to them at the time the suspension of payments was decreed.

As this would, of course, not satisfy me, I had no choice left but to present at once to Government an ultimatum, and demand my passports in case it was refused.

On the presentation of my ultimatum Señor de Zamacona resigned, the Minister of War having done so the day before; and there is now a probability of the other members of the Cabinet doing so likewise, unless Congress retraces its steps, for the Government have sent back the Convention to be reconsidered by them as a last resource.

To-day I had a visit from Señor Lerdo de Tejada, the leader of the Opposition in Congress, who called to ask me whether I would consent to any modification in the Convention; as, if I would agree to modify the Articles concerning the repayment of the Legation and conducta robberies, and the powers given to enable our Consuls to act as Interventors, he would engage to pass it through Congress, and then accept the vacant post of Minister for Foreign Affairs, which under such circumstances he thought the President would confer upon him.

My answer was a simple one, and to the effect that having already made every concession possible in my negotiations with Señor de Zamacona, I could make no others. On receiving this answer Señor Lerdo de Tejada retired, and with him disappeared every hope of the Convention's ratification.

I have only now again to express to your Lordship my high sense of Mr. Corwin's conduct through the whole business; he has stood by me in the most honourable manner, and on learning the rejection of my Convention by Congress, refused in the most positive

manner to advance the Government one dollar of the proposed American loan. Nor can I pass over in silence the services of Señor de Zamacona, the Minister for Foreign Affairs; he at all events has been sincere in trying to second my late endeavours, and his resignation of office proves that there is an exception to every rule, even as regards Mexico and the Mexicans.

I shall start for Vera Cruz with the members of my Mission as soon as I can conveniently do so, leaving Mr. Consul Glennie in charge of the archives, and with him that most excellent public servant Don Rafael Beraza, so that the merchants here shall not suffer by my absence in the courier arrangements. Havana will probably be the place where I shall await your Lordship's instructions, but wherever I may settle to go I will not fail to remember the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of September 28, in reference to the Admiral on the station.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received the inclosed letter from the Mexican Foreign Office, by which your Lordship will see that I am requested to wait for the answer to my ultimatum until the new Minister for Foreign Affairs is appointed.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Propositions voted by Congress abrogating the Law of July 17, 1861.

LA DEROGATION DE LA LOI DU 17 JUILLET.—Voici le texte de la proposition présentée et adoptée, le 23 du courant, par le Congrès qui l'a dispensée des formalités du règlement; elle a pour auteurs MM. les Députés Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada, Manuel Ruiz, Mariano Riva Palacio, Montes, Dublan, Linares, Piño y Ramirez, Baz, Suarez Navarro et Chico Sein.

Article 1. Sont dérogées les dispositions de la Loi du 17 Juillet de la présente année qui se réfèrent aux Conventions Diplomatiques et à la dette contractée à Londres.

Art. 2. Le Gouvernement mettra immédiatement en voie de paiement les assignations respectives, conformément aux dispositions et aux règlements antérieurs à la dite Loi.

Art 3. Le Gouvernement remettra immédiatement au Congrès une notice des sommes qui existaient au moment de l'expédition de la Loi et de celles qu'il aura reçues depuis, appartenant aux dites assignations, en initiant les lois qu'il jugera nécessaires pour rembourser les dites sommes aux créanciers des Conventions et de la dette contractée à Londres, et pour procurer au trésor les fonds dont il manque pour cet objet.

Economique.—Une Commission du Congrès déclarera au Président de la République la convenance que le Gouvernement, en publiant la présente Loi, expose et explique officiellement les raisons de justice qu'il a eues pour rendre celle du 17 Juillet, et les motifs pour lesquels elle est dérogée, en ce qui touche aux Conventions et à la dette contractée à Londres.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Zamacona.

Sir,

Mexico, November 24, 1861.

THE rejection of the Convention of the 21st instant by Congress on the night of Friday last has, I regret to say, put a term to those measures of conciliation by which, after six weeks' incessant labour and sacrifices, we had sought to remove the serious differences between the two countries.

Under these circumstances I have but one course left open to me, and that is, without delay to present to your Excellency the ultimatum of Her Majesty's Government, requiring the acceptance of the following conditions, viz. :—

1. Immediate abrogation of the Law of the 17th of July last.

2. That in the ports of the Republic, Commissioners, to be named by Her Majesty's Government, shall be placed for the purpose of appropriating to the Powers having Conventions with Mexico the assignments which those Conventions prescribe shall be paid out of the receipts of the maritime Custom-houses, including in the sums to be paid to the British Government the amount of the conducta robbery and the money stolen from the British Legation in the month of November last.

3. That the Commissioners shall have the power of reducing by one half, or in any less proportion that they think fit, the duties now levied under the existing Tariff.

If these terms are not complied with, I shall find myself under the necessity of quitting the Republic with all the members of my Mission, leaving the Government of Mexico responsible for the consequences that will ensue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 109.

Señor Arias to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Government House, Mexico, November 28, 1861.

THE Undersigned, charged temporarily with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has the honour to answer the note which his Excellency Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, &c., has been pleased to address to the said Ministry, under date of the 24th instant, in which he communicates the conditions the acceptance of which is demanded by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, in order to terminate the suspension of diplomatic relations, to which the Law of the 17th of July last gave rise.

The Undersigned must first of all make his excuses to his Excellency Sir Charles Wyke for the delay which he will perceive in this answer, but which will, however, have already been explained, if he knows that the Minister charged with this Department withdrew from it, having previously resigned, almost at the very moment that the said note of the Legation was received, and if he knows also that the Supreme Government is making every effort with the Congress, in order to settle the difficulties which unfortunately have arisen between Great Britain and the Republic of Mexico.

The Chief Magistrate of the Republic is most anxious that this should take place, and his Excellency Sir Charles Wyke will not doubt it if he remembers the recent proofs which the Mexican Government has given of its desire for a peaceful and reasonable settlement of the difficulties pending with Great Britain.

In order to obtain this result the chief obstacle has been removed by the abrogation of the Law of July 17th; and in consideration of this, and that there will soon be a new Minister to take charge of the present negotiation, the Undersigned confidently hopes from Sir Charles Wyke's honest intentions and benevolent sentiments, that he will be good enough to wait only until the new Minister to be named may give the due answer to the aforesaid note of his Excellency, and to suspend for the moment any resolution which may alter the position which the question now has.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) JUAN A. D. ARIAS.

No. 110.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received January 3.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 2, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Earl Russell, a copy of a letter from Commodore Dunlop, dated the 5th ultimo, and of its inclosures, reporting the sailing of the Spanish expedition from Havana for Vera Cruz on the 30th November and the 1st and 2nd of December last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Challenger," at Havana, December 5, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a letter and its inclosures which I have this day addressed to Rear-Admiral Sir A. Milne, K.C.B., Commander-in-chief, reporting the sailing from Havana of the Spanish expedition for Vera Cruz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Commodore Dunlop to Rear-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

Sir, "Challenger," at Havana, December 5, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Spanish expedition for Vera Cruz sailed from this place in three divisions on 30th ultimo and 1st and 2nd instants, under the command of Rear-Admiral Rubalcava, who sailed on 1st instant, with his flag in the paddle-steamer "Isabel la Catolica."

Inclosed is a list of the vessels forming the expedition.

The troops embarked amount to 6,000 of all arms, under the command of Don Manuel Gasset. The names of the principal Staff Officers are inclosed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

P.S.—I shall transmit a copy of this letter and its inclosure to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

H. D.

Inclosure 3 in No. 110.

List of Ships of War and Transports composing the Spanish Expedition to Mexico.

Class.	Name.	Guns.	Horse-power.	Captains.	Remarks.
Paddle corvette ..	Isabel la Catolica ..	16	500	Don Carlos del Camino ..	Flag-ship.
Ditto ..	Francisco de Asis ..	16	500	Don Nicolas Chicarro ..	
Paddle sloop ..	Blasco de Garay ..	6	250	Don Me. Diaz Herrera.	
Ditto ..	Pizarro ..	6	350	Don Juan Pita la Vega.	
Paddle gun-boat ..	Guadalquiver ..	1	100	Don Adolfo Navarite.	
Paddle transport ..	Velasco ..	4	440	Don José Carranza.	
Screw frigate ..	Princesa de Asturias ..	69	...	Don José Alvarado.	
Ditto ..	Concepcion ..	37	...	Don Ml. McCrohin.	
Ditto ..	Lealtad ..	50	...	Don Pedro del Castillo.	
Ditto ..	Blanca ..	42	...	Don Ml. de la Rigada.	
Ditto ..	Berenguela ..	37	380	Don José R. de Arrias.	
Ditto ..	Petronila ..	37	380	Don R. Me Venalet.	
Screw transport ..	Ferrol ..	2	...	Don Pablo Lugo Xinas.	
Ditto ..	Numero Tres ..	2	...	Don Ramon Bran.	
Sailing transport ..	Santa Maria ..	2	...	Don Alejo Rodriguez.	
Ditto ..	Marigalante ..	2	...	Don Sunico.	
Screw transport ..	Cubana (No. 1) ..	...	...		
Ditto ..	Cuba (No. 11) ..	...	...		
Ditto ..	Cardenas (No. 9) ..	...	...		
Ditto ..	Maisi (No. 7) ..	...	...		
Paddle transport ..	Pajaro del Oceano (No. 5).	...	...		
Sailing transport ..	Sunrise (No. 2) ..	...	...		
Ditto ..	Teresa (No. 4) ..	...	...		
Ditto ..	Favorita (No. 6) ..	...	...		
Ditto ..	Paquita (No. 8) ..	...	...		
Ditto ..	Palma (No. 10) ..	...	...		

Inclosure 4 in No. 110.

List of the principal Staff Officers of the Spanish Expedition to Mexico.

Commander-in-Chief, Don Manuel Gasset; second in command, Brigadier-General, Don Carlos de Valgos; Chief of the Staff, Colonel Don Juan Vidarte, of Bobadilla; Colonel-Commandant of Artillery, Marques de la Concordia; Colonel-Commandant of Engineers, Don Nicolas Valdes y Fernandez; Commissary-General, Don Baltasar Llopisy y Caparros; Surgeon-General, Don Joaquin Rosell y Fio; Colonel-Commandant of 1st, Brigadier Don Francisco Aparicio y Pardo; Colonel-Commandant of 2nd, Brigadier Don Vincente Diaz de Caballas; Colonel-Commandant of Artillery, Don Antonio Fernandez Cuevos; Colonel-Commandant of Engineers, Don Andres Gortia of Goyeneche. 2nd battalion Cazadores de Bailcu y Union; 1st battalion, Napoles; 1st battalion, Cuba; 4 companies 1st battalion, Napoles; 4 companies of 2nd battalion, Rey.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received January 7, 1862.)

My Lord,

Washington, December 21, 1861.

IN my despatch of the 10th September last, I informed your Lordship that instructions had been sent to Mr. Corwin, the United States' Minister in Mexico, to conclude a Convention with the Mexican Government, in virtue of which the United States should assume the obligation to pay the interest on the foreign debt of that country.

Mr. Seward told me this morning that Mr. Corwin had not concluded the proposed Convention, but had sent, in lieu of it, a draft of a Convention, providing for the United States advancing to Mexico a very large sum to enable her to discharge her obligations to foreign creditors. Mr. Seward said that if Mr. Corwin had sent a Convention in the terms of his draft, already signed, the President would, no doubt, have recommended it to the Senate for ratification. Since, however, a draft only had been sent, it had been determined, in conformity with a plan occasionally adopted in important cases, to ask the Senate beforehand whether it advised the President to conclude a Treaty on the terms proposed.

Mr. Seward proceeded to say that Mr. Corwin would, in all probability, have signed the Treaty at once, had he not been displeased by the rejection, by the Mexican Congress, of a "very proper" Treaty negotiated by Sir Charles Wyke. Mr. Corwin had, Mr. Seward said, given Sir Charles Wyke all the support in his power, and had declined to conclude his own Treaty when he found that the Treaty made by Sir Charles had been rejected.

I told Mr. Seward that I had received a private letter from Sir Charles Wyke, speaking in the highest terms of Mr. Corwin.

Mr. Seward observed that, as the Draft of the Treaty was before the Senate in Secret Session, it would not be right for him to acquaint me with the exact sum to be advanced by the United States, or with other details.

I have reason to suppose that Mr. Corwin was instructed not to engage for the payment of money by the United States unless the Mexican Government should previously come to such an arrangement with Great Britain as should render it pretty certain that the money would not be paid in vain; that it would not fail to prevent the combined expedition, or at all events to prevent Great Britain taking part in it.

Some of the details of Mr. Corwin's draft have transpired, or at any rate very confident assertions are made concerning them. It is stated that the sum to be advanced is in all 9,000,000 dollars; 500,000 dollars to be paid at the expiration of thirty days from the ratification of the Treaty, and a like sum at the expiration of each successive period of thirty days, until 5,000,000 have been advanced; the remaining 4,000,000 to be advanced in half-yearly payments of 2,000,000; the first to be made six months after the payment of the last sum of 500,000.

As security the American Government is to have a mortgage on all the public lands, minerals, &c., of Lower California, Chihuahua, and two other provinces bordering on the United States. A Commission composed of three Mexicans and two Americans is to assume the administration of the land, &c., thus mortgaged.

It is understood, however, that Mr. Corwin will still be instructed to abstain from signing the Treaty, unless there be a reasonable prospect of its attaining the object the United States' Government have in view; that of removing the combined fleets to a distance from the Gulf of Mexico and the coasts of this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

M. Isturiz to Earl Russell.—(Received January 14.)

My Lord,

Legacion de España en Londres, 13 de Enero de 1862.

EL Gobierno de la Reina mi augusta Soberana me comunica con fecha 7 del actual las instrucciones que apenas recibió en 13 de Diciembre las órdenes necesarias para el cumplimiento de la Convencion firmada en Londres el 31 de Octubre último, se apresuró á remitir el Capitan-General de Cuba á los gefes del ejército y escuadra de la expedicion que habia enviado á Méjico, en virtud de órdenes anteriores y en completa ignorancia de los pormenores y arreglos que fueron consecuencia de la citada Convencion.

A mi vez tengo el honor de transmitir á vuestra Excelencia una copia de estas instrucciones, cuyo tenor es sin duda el mas á propósito para asegurar, de acuerdo con lo estipulado en 31 de Octubre, la accion mancomunada de las tres Potencias en la República de Méjico.

Con este, &c.
(Firmado) XAVIER E ISTURIZ.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Spanish Legation, London, January 13, 1862.

THE Government of the Queen my august Sovereign communicated to me on the 7th instant the instructions which the Captain-General of Cuba, so soon as he received on the 13th December the orders necessary for carrying out the Convention, signed in London the 31st October last, hastened to transmit to the heads of the army and squadron of the expedition which he had sent to Mexico, in furtherance of preceding orders, and in entire ignorance of the details and arrangements made in consequence of that Convention.

I have now the honour to forward to your Excellency a copy of those instructions, the tenor of which is doubtless most suitable to secure, in accordance with what was stipulated on the 31st October, the joint action of the three Powers in the Republic of Mexico.

I have, &c.
(Signed) XAVIER E ISTURIZ.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Instructions addressed by the Captain-General of Cuba, on the 13th of December, 1861, to the Heads of the Spanish Expedition to Mexico.

1. SI al recibo de este despacho no se hubiesen emprendido ya operaciones militares deberá suspenderse toda agresion, permaneciendo las tropas á bordo si en ello no hay inconveniente ó peligro; si en efecto lo hubiese procurarán V.EE. desembarcar y formar un campamento atrincherado, donde permanecerá la Division á la defensiva sin proceder á agresion de ningun género y protegida por la escuadra.

2. Si como lo afirman todas las noticias aqui recibidas, han sido abandonados por los Mejicanos la plaza de Vera Cruz y el Castillo de San Juan de Ulua, y las tropas han ocupado ya ambos puntos, deberán V.EE. conservarlos, rechazando los ataques de que pudiera ser objeto, pero sin tomar nunca la iniciativa de operacion alguna militar.

3. En los dos supuestos precedentes esperarán la llegada del nuevo General Ministro Plenipotenciario, á quien supongo se le han comunicado por el Gobierno todas las instrucciones necesarias acerca de la conducta ulterior de la expedicion. Con la llegada del Señor Prim concidirá probablemente la de los Almirantes Francés é Inglés, y en semejante caso cumple solo á V.EE. atenerse á los acuerdos de las tres Potencias.

4. Si la plaza y el castillo estuviesen en aptitud de defenderse y el ataque se hubiese emprendido, se procederá como convenga al cumplimiento de las nuevas órdenes de Su Magestad si el honor de nuestras armas lo permite, y sinó se llevará á cabo lo que pueda ser necesario á la gloria del nombre Español.

5. Si el bloqueo se hubiese establecido al recibo de esta comunicacion declararán V.EE. en suspenso sus efectos hasta la llegada de los aliados. No prescindirán sin embargo de la posesion de la Aduana si ya estuviesen en ella; pero la entregarán inmediatamente á disposicion de los Plenipotenciarios luego que estén reunidos.

Como V.EE. han podido comprender, las cinco disposiciones precedentes se reasumen en un pensamiento general reducido á conservar un perfecto *statu quo* hasta que lleguen los Representantes de las Potencias aliadas.

A la discrecion de V.EE. corresponde, dado el estado de cosas que yo no puedo conocer desde aqui, armonizar lo que se ha hecho con lo demas que deba hacerse, evitando conflictos y complicaciones con las Potencias firmantes del Convenio.

Dios, &c. (Firmado) FRANCISCO SERRANO.

(Translation.)

1. IF, at the receipt of this despatch, no military operations shall have been undertaken, all aggression must be suspended, the troops remaining on board ship if

there shall be no inconvenience or danger therein; but if in fact there should be any, you will land and form an entrenched camp, where the division will remain on the defensive, without proceeding to an attack of any sort, and under protection of the squadron.

2. If, as it is asserted by all the information hitherto received, the place of Vera Cruz and the Castle San Juan de Ulloa have been abandoned by the Mexicans, and both points are in the occupation of the troops, you will maintain them, repulsing any attacks that may be made against them, but without ever taking the initiative of any military operation.

3. In these two supposed cases you will await the arrival of the new General Minister Plenipotentiary, to whom, I presume, all the instructions necessary for the ulterior conduct of the expedition will have been communicated by the Government. The arrival of Señor Prim will probably coincide with that of the French and English Admirals, and in such case you will have to attend only to the concurrent resolves of the three Powers.

4. If the place and the castle shall be in a defensive attitude and the attack shall have been commenced, you shall proceed according to the new orders of Her Majesty, if the honour of our arms allow it, and if not, you will complete what may be requisite for the glory of the Spanish name.

5. If the blockade shall be established on the receipt of this communication, you will declare the effects thereof to be in suspense until the arrival of the allies. Nevertheless, you will not give up possession of the Custom-house, if you shall be in possession of it; but you will immediately place it at the disposal of the Plenipotentiaries so soon as they shall have met.

As you will have understood, the five preceding Articles may be summed up in one general idea, of maintaining a perfect *statu quo* until the arrival of the Representatives of the allied Powers. It is left to your discretion, according to the state of things which I cannot be acquainted with from this place, to harmonize what is done with what remains to be done, avoiding conflicts and complications with the Powers who have signed the Agreement.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO SERRANO.

No. 113.

Earl Russell to M. Isturiz.

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1862.

I BEG leave to thank you for your note of the 13th instant, in which you communicate to me the instructions addressed by the Captain-General of Cuba to the Commander of Her Catholic Majesty's military and naval forces in Mexico.

I have at the same time the honour to inform you that, whilst those instructions are considered satisfactory by Her Majesty's Government, they have not yet been able to understand why the Spanish expedition set out before the arrival of the British and French forces.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

RUSSELL.

No. 114.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received January 18.)

(Extract.)

Paris, January, 17, 1862.

M. THOUVENEL informed me this afternoon that the Emperor had determined to reinforce the expeditionary corps sent to Mexico. M. de Flahault, his Excellency said, would be instructed to state the reasons of this determination to your Lordship, and he (M. Thouvenel) hoped that it would not be opposed by Her Majesty's Government.

M. Isturiz to Earl Russell.—(Received January 20.)

My Lord,

Legacion de España en Londres, 18 de Enero de 1862.

HE tenido el honor de recibir la comunicacion de vuestra Excelencia fecha 16 del actual, en respuesta á la nota que le dirigí el dia 13, trasladándole las instrucciones enviadas por el Capitan-General de Cuba á los Gefes de la expedicion de Méjico. Manifiesta en ella vuestra Excelencia que considera satisfactorias aquellas instrucciones, pero que el Gobierno de Su Magestad Británica no ha podido comprender aun porqué salió de Cuba la expedicion Española antes de la llegada de las fuerzas Inglesas y Francesas. Creia haber explicado suficientemente este punto en mi nota de 22 de Diciembre último; pero puesto que todavia necesita aclaraciones, diré á vuestra Excelencia que, segun los despachos del Capitan-General de Cuba, las órdenes para suspender la expedicion, enviadas por la via de Nueva York con la esperanza de que llegasen mas pronto á su destino, no fueron recibidas en Cuba hasta la mitad de Diciembre, y que el Capitan-General, ignorante de los pormenores del Tratado y del punto fijado para la reunion de las escuadras y temeroso de llegar tarde á Vera Cruz, juzgó oportuno no demorar la salida de una expedicion que hacia mucho tiempo que se hallaba lista de todo punto. Si en la conferencia que tuve el honor de celebrar con vuestra Excelencia el dia 7 del corriente se hubiese tocado esta duda, hubiera yo tenido el mayor gusto en desvanecerla, como espero lo quedará ahora con estas francas explicaciones.

Con este, &c.

(Firmado) XAVIER E ISTURIZ.

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Spanish Legation, London, January 18, 1862.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's communication dated the 16th instant, in reply to the note which I addressed you on the 13th, transmitting to you the instructions sent by the Captain-General of Cuba to the Heads of the expedition to Mexico. In that communication your Excellency informs me that you consider those instructions satisfactory, but that Her Britannic Majesty's Government could not yet understand why the Spanish expedition left Cuba before the arrival of the English and French forces. I thought I had sufficiently explained this point in my note of the 22nd of December last, but since it still requires explanation, I have to inform your Excellency that according to the despatches of the Captain-General of Cuba the orders to suspend the expedition, which were sent viâ New York, in the hope that they would the sooner reach their destination, were not received in Cuba till the middle of December, and that the Captain-General, unacquainted with the details of the Treaty, and with the point fixed for the meeting of the squadrons, being also fearful of arriving too late at Vera Cruz, thought it right not to delay the departure of an expedition which had been for a long time ready in every point. If this doubt had been mentioned at the interview which I had the honour to have with your Excellency on the 7th instant, I should have already had very great pleasure in clearing it up, as I hope will be done by this frank explanation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) XAVIER E ISTURIZ.

No. 116.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 20, 1862.

I SAW Count Flahault yesterday. His Excellency informed me that he was instructed to state that the French Government considered it necessary to send an additional land force to Mexico. I had been prepared for this communication by your Excellency's despatch of the 17th of January.

Count Flahault went on to say that the precipitate step taken by General Serrano in commencing operations, without waiting for the forces of France and England, was calculated to enhance the difficulties of the expedition; that it now seemed inevitable that the allied forces must advance into the interior of Mexico, and not only would the force at present agreed upon be insufficient for such an operation, but the operation itself would assume a character in regard to which the Emperor could not allow the French

force to be in a position of inferiority to that of Spain, or to run the risk of being compromised.

His Imperial Majesty has therefore determined to send a reinforcement of between 3,000 and 4,000 men to Mexico.

I told Count Flahault that I very much regretted this step: I had no objection to offer on behalf of Her Majesty's Government to the validity of the argument that the forces of France should not be inferior in number to those of Spain. I would, therefore, only observe that it would not be possible for Her Majesty's Government to detach any greater amount of troops for operations on shore than the force of Marines already sent to the Mexican coast.

No. 117

Earl Russell to M. Isturiz.

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, January 23, 1862.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's communication of the 18th January last, I have to state to your Excellency that although Her Majesty's Government are not entirely satisfied with the explanation offered by your Excellency as to the departure from Cuba of the Spanish expedition to Mexico before the time agreed upon between the three Powers, they are willing to accept your Excellency's declaration that it has been the intention of Her Catholic Majesty's Government to act in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty of the 20th of November, 1861.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 118.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 19, 1862.

ALTHOUGH Her Majesty's Government are satisfied, from the explanations given by M. Isturiz, that the Government of Her Catholic Majesty has given instructions to Her Catholic Majesty's Commanders at Havana in conformity with the agreements entered into with Her Majesty and His Majesty the Emperor of the French, yet the proceedings of Marshal Serrano are calculated to produce some uneasiness.

The departure of the Spanish expedition from Havana, and the military occupation of Vera Cruz, to say nothing of the tone of the Proclamation issued by the Spanish Government, demonstrate that a combined expedition, at a great distance from Europe, is subject to the discretion at all times, to the rashness sometimes, of the separate Commanders and Diplomatic Agents.

I wish you to read to Marshal O'Donnell and M. Calderon Collantes the preamble and the Article of our Convention which define what our intervention is intended to do, and what it is not intended to do.

You will point out that the allied forces are not to be used for the purpose of depriving the Mexicans of their undoubted right of choosing their own form of government.

Should the Mexicans choose to constitute a new Government which can restore order and preserve amicable relations with foreign nations, Her Majesty's Government will be delighted to hail the formation, and to support the consolidation, of such a Government. If, on the contrary, the troops of foreign Powers are to be used to set up a Government repugnant to the sentiments of Mexico, and to support it by military force, Her Majesty's Government could expect no other result from such an attempt than discord and disappointment. In such a case the allied Governments would only have to choose between withdrawing from such an enterprise with some shame, or extending their interference beyond the limits, scope, and intention of the Triple Convention.

You will explain to Marshal O'Donnell that this apprehension on our part does not arise from any suspicion of the good faith of the Government of Her Catholic Majesty; but Commanders acting at a distance require to be very closely watched, lest they should commit their principals to unwarrantable proceedings.

You will read this despatch to M. Calderon Collantes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received January 25.)

(Extract.)

Paris, January 24, 1862.

I HAVE heard from so many quarters that the language of officers going with the reinforcements to Mexico is, that it is for the purpose of placing the Archduke Maximilian upon the throne of that country, that I have thought it necessary to question M. Thouvenel upon the subject.

I inquired of M. Thouvenel whether any negotiations had been pending between this Government and that of Austria with reference to the Archduke Maximilian. His Excellency replied in the negative. He said that the negotiations had been carried on by Mexicans only, who had come over for the purpose and gone to Vienna.

No. 120.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 27, 1862.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches from the 18th to the 28th November.

Since I last wrote to you, the Emperor of the French has decided to send 3,000 more troops to Vera Cruz.

It is supposed that these troops will march at once with the French, and a part of the Spanish troops already there, to the city of Mexico.

It is said that the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian will be invited by a large body of Mexicans to place himself on the Throne of Mexico, and that the Mexican people will gladly hail such a change.

I have little to add to my former instructions on this head. If the Mexican people, by a spontaneous movement, place the Austrian Archduke on the Throne of Mexico, there is nothing in the Convention to prevent it.

On the other hand, we could be no parties to a forcible intervention for this purpose. The Mexicans must consult their own interests.

I have to add to my former instructions respecting the Admirals in the Atlantic and Pacific, that you will make no objection to the withdrawal of the Marines from Vera Cruz when the unhealthy season shall arrive.

You will also not object to any measures which may be concerted between the Senior British Naval Officer at Vera Cruz and Admiral Maitland for the occupation or blockade of any or all the Mexican ports on the Pacific which it may be thought necessary, for the purposes of the Convention, to occupy or to blockade. Acapulco, San Blas, and Mazatlan, are the ports chiefly alluded to in this instruction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **RUSSELL.**

No. 121.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received January 29, 1862.)

My Lord,

Mexico, December 14, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 1st of November last, instructing me to proceed to Jamaica, with all the members of Her Majesty's Mission here, as soon as Admiral Sir Alexander Milne could send a vessel of war to Vera Cruz for that purpose.

Having just heard of the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Ariadne" at that port, I yesterday wrote to Señor Doblado, the newly-appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting to be furnished with my passports, to enable me to leave the territory of the Republic.

I have the honour to inclose copy of my letter to his Excellency, together with his reply thereto.

I quit Mexico for Vera Cruz the day after to-morrow, leaving Mr. Consul Glennie in charge of the archives of the Legation, and in the event of hostilities taking place between Her Majesty's forces and those of the Republic, I have requested M. Kint de Roodenbeeck, the Belgian Chargé d'Affaires, to take British subjects and their interests here under his protection.

I herewith inclose copy of the communication which I addressed to him with reference to this matter, together with his reply thereto.

I shall wait at Vera Cruz for the English mail, which ought to arrive there on the 27th instant, and immediately after its arrival shall proceed on to Jamaica to join the Admiral, who expects to be there in the first week of January.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Sir C. Wyke to Señor Doblado.

Sir,

Mexico, December 13, 1861.

THE ultimatum of Her Majesty's Government, which I presented to that of the Republic on the 24th ultimo, having remained up to the present moment unanswered, no other course is now open to me than to demand my passports, so as to enable me and the other members of Her Majesty's Mission to leave Mexico.

Mr. Glennie, the English Consul here, will remain in charge of the archives of the Legation, as well also as of British subjects and their interests in the Republic. Should, however, hostilities hereafter unfortunately ensue between the forces of our respective Governments, it will then become necessary to place my countrymen and their property here under the protection of a neutral flag, for which purpose I have requested M. Kint de Roodenbeeck, the Belgian Chargé d'Affaires, to take charge of them, which from the intimate relations of friendship existing between the Governments of Belgium and Great Britain, he has most willingly consented to do.

This I consider necessary more as a matter of form than for any other reason, so convinced am I that under such circumstances the Government of Mexico will consider it as a point of honour to afford every protection and guarantee to British subjects whose interests may oblige them to remain as residents within the territory of the Republic.

In order to avoid great inconvenience both to the Mexican Government as well as to the whole commercial body, I shall leave Don Rafael Beraza here to direct, as heretofore, the Courier Service of this Legation, which I am sure will continue to receive every protection and assistance from your Government.

My intention is to leave this city for Vera Cruz on Monday next, and I should feel obliged if your Excellency would give the necessary instructions in the proper quarter to furnish me with a proper escort for our due protection on the road.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Señor Doblado to Sir C. Wyke.

(Translation.)

Government House, Mexico, December 14, 1861.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has had the honour to receive the note of his Excellency Sir Charles Wyke, &c., dated the 13th instant, in which he is pleased to state, that as his ultimatum of the 24th ultimo has not been answered, the Legation will be under the necessity of leaving Mexico; adding that Mr. Glennie, British Consul, remained charged with the protection of the British subjects, and that in the unfortunate event of a rupture, this commission was entrusted to the Belgian Chargé d'Affaires, but rather as a form than for any other motive, since his Excellency rests assured that Mexico will, as a point of honour, give every sort of guarantee to British subjects, and concludes by announcing that Don Rafael Beraza will remain in this capital in order to superintend the couriers of the Legation, which Legation intending to leave next Monday, he requests that the necessary escort should be furnished him, in order to protect him on his journey.

Complying with the request of his Excellency, the Undersigned has the honour to annex herewith the necessary passport, at the same time that he hastens to transmit to him a copy of the circular issued on the 5th instant by the Supreme Government of the Republic, in which the desires of that Legation are anticipated, assuring, as it does, guarantees to all the foreigners residing in the country, even in the unfortunate event of a rupture.

The orders are given for the placing of the escorts that have to protect the person of his Excellency, Sir Charles Wyke, up to Vera Cruz, and the Postmaster-General is agreed that Don Rafael Beraza should remain charged with the transmission of the correspondence of the Legation.

The Citizen President being authorized in every possible way by the Supreme Congress to make Treaties with friendly nations without the necessity of obtaining the approval of that Body, he has still the hope of renewing the negotiations with his Excellency the British Minister that were interrupted, always on the understanding, as is indispensable, that that Legation should be sufficiently authorized by the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, for Mexico is disposed to do whatever may be compatible with justice and the national dignity.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) MANUEL DOBLADO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 121.

Circular addressed to Governors of States.

Ministère des Relations, Mexico, le 5 Décembre, 1861.

LA situation délicate où en est venue la République avec les Puissances étrangères met la nation et le Gouvernement dans le devoir impérieux de veiller plus que jamais à ce que les garanties concédées aux étrangers par les lois du pays et le droit des gens soient respectées d'une manière inviolable.

La justice du Mexique dans ses différends avec quelques unes de ces Puissances offre une probabilité que les conflits seront écartés, lorsqu'on examinera de plus près les motifs puissants qui sont venus s'interposer accidentellement comme une difficulté dans le développement des relations cordiales que le Mexique a désiré, même au prix de grands sacrifices, cultiver et resserrer avec les nations amies.

Une preuve de ces désirs est la franche et généreuse hospitalité avec laquelle le pays a reçu dans son sein les enfants de ces nations, en leur concédant les plus grandes franchises dans l'exercice du commerce, de l'agriculture, de l'industrie et des arts. Si quelquefois des événements qui ont porté préjudice, non seulement aux étrangers, mais encore aux nationaux dans une mesure beaucoup plus grande, le Mexique n'a jamais cessé néanmoins de manifester son amour pour la justice et la civilisation, ni de faire tout ce qu'exigent ces dernières, dans l'intérêt de son nom et de son décorum.

Cependant, des difficultés inattendues obligent aujourd'hui la nation à donner de nouvelles preuves et de plus grands témoignages de loyauté et d'honneur aux Puissances étrangères, et à démentir, par des actes d'humanité et d'illustration, la note de semi-barbares qu'on déverse sur elle, grâce aux manœuvres exécrables et aux informations mensongères de spéculateurs sans conscience et de quelques enfants dénaturés du Mexique qui feraient sa honte, s'il n'était certain que les nations, comme les familles, ne peuvent être responsables devant la véritable civilisation de l'ingratitude et des vices personnels d'une minorité d'hommes qui, dans tous les pays et dans tous les temps, ont prétendu ternir l'éclat des sociétés les plus éclairées.

En considération de ce qui précède, le Citoyen Président a bien voulu décider que je vous recommande, comme j'ai l'honneur de le faire, de veiller, aujourd'hui plus que jamais, par tous les moyens que vous suggérera votre prudence, votre circonspection et votre patriotisme, à ce que les garanties concédées aux étrangers par les Traités et par le droit des gens deviennent efficaces, en écartant ainsi tout motif ou tout prétexte qui pût les engager à ne pas conserver la stricte neutralité à laquelle ils sont obligés dans les questions pendantes avec le Gouvernement respectif. Il appartient à votre jugement et à votre tact bien connus de diriger vers un but profitable l'exaltation du patriotisme, et d'empêcher que les excitations populaires dans les conflits de la nation ne débordent contre les étrangers laborieux et pacifiques, auxquels on doit entière protection, de même qu'on doit appliquer strictement la loi aux turbulents et aux séditieux.

Il est superflu de vous démontrer combien la situation actuelle serait aggravée par des désordres qui, dans les circonstances du moment, viendraient justifier dans une certaine mesure les inculpations que l'on fait au Mexique, et combien, au contraire, contribuerait au bon succès de sa défense l'attitude digne d'un peuple qui soutient, dans son indépendance et son décorum, son amour pour l'humanité et la civilisation.

En accomplissant l'ordre du Citoyen Président, il m'est agréable de vous reitérer, &c.
Dieu, liberté et réforme.

(Signé) JUAN DE D. ARIAS.

Au Citoyen Gouverneur de l'Etat de

Inclosure 4 in No. 121.

Sir C. Wyke to M. de Roodenbeeck.

Sir and dear Colleague,

Mexico, December 13, 1861.

ON quitting Mexico I leave Mr. Glennie, our Consul here, in charge of the archives of the Legation, as well also as of the interests of those British residents in the Republic whose affairs, either public or private, will not permit them to leave the country at the present time.

For the moment such protection will prove sufficient; but in the event of hostilities hereafter occurring between Her Majesty's forces and those of this Republic, it will become necessary that Englishmen and their property here should be placed under the protection of a neutral flag.

With this object in view, and taking into consideration the intimate and friendly relations existing between our respective Governments, I know nobody more fitting to take charge of British interests than yourself, provided you would not object to do so under the circumstances I have named; in which case, with full confidence in your tact and judgment, I should feel certain that my countrymen would receive every protection and assistance which you may have it in your power to afford during the absence from this capital of a British Legation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 121.

M. de Roodenbeeck to Sir C. Wyke.

Monsieur et cher Collègue,

Légation de Belgique, Mexico, le 14 Décembre, 1861.

J'AI reçu la dépêche en date d'hier par laquelle vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'informer, que lors de votre départ de Mexico vous confierez les archives de la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique et les intérêts de vos nationaux à M. Glennie, votre Consul dans cette résidence; mais que si des actes d'hostilité devaient avoir lieu entre les forces de la Grande Bretagne et celles du Mexique vous désirez que les nationaux Anglais et leurs propriétés soient placés sous la protection du pavillon et de la Légation Belges.

Je m'empresse de vous manifester, Monsieur et cher collègue, que je serai heureux de faire tout ce qui sera en mon pouvoir pour que durant l'éloignement de la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique, vos compatriotes et leurs propriétés soient parfaitement respectés. N'importe dans quelle éventualité, ils trouveront auprès de la Légation du Roi mon auguste Souverain la même protection et la même assistance que mes propres nationaux.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) TKINT DE ROODENBEECK.

No. 122.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received January 29, 1862.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, December 29, 1862.

I ARRIVED here on the evening of the 24th from Mexico, intending to leave this place in Her Majesty's ship "Ariadne" for Jamaica immediately after the arrival of the English mail, which I fully expected would have brought your Lordship's replies to my official correspondence of the 29th of October last. The steamer "Clyde" arrived at this port the day before yesterday, without, however, having brought any despatches for me, so that I conclude they have been sent to Jamaica under the Admiral's address. Yesterday morning Captain Von Donop, of Her Majesty's ship "Jason," called to show me a letter from Commodore Dunlop, dated the 23rd instant, from the Havana, by which I learnt that it was not the Admiral's intention to proceed to Jamaica as announced; but that he was expected with the squadron at the Havana on the 26th instant *en route* for Vera Cruz.

Under these circumstances, had I proceeded even at once to that place in the "Ariadne," I should probably have crossed without meeting him on the way.

This consideration induced me to remain where I was; and by way of avoiding any

further uncertainty, I immediately dispatched Mr. Walsham in the "Ariadne" with a letter for the Admiral, begging his Excellency at once to forward to me my despatches in case the present critical state of our relations with the United States should prevent his coming on here, as Captain Von Donop thought it not at all improbable that he would now return to the North.

As this place has been in possession of the Spaniards since the 17th instant, there could be no impropriety in my remaining here, as I am no longer residing in a town under the authority of the Mexican Government.

The English and French squadrons are expected here three or four days hence, but they may be detained for a week or ten days more, in consequence of the heavy northerly gales which so frequently blow on this coast at the present season.

Until the Admiral's arrival, or Mr. Walsham's return, I of course remain ignorant of the nature of your Lordship's instructions, as well also of the stipulations of the Convention which I hear has been signed by the Plenipotentiaries of England, France, and Spain.

No. 123.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received January 29, 1862.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, December 29, 1861.

ON my arrival here a few days ago, I found that Vera Cruz had formally been taken possession of, on the 17th instant, by a Spanish force under the command of General Gasset, composed of 6,500 men and 300 horses. They were brought here from the Havana in twenty-six transports and vessels of war, commanded by Admiral Rubalcava, who having summoned the place to surrender, both castle and town were delivered up to him without resistance. All the Mexican authorities, with many of the inhabitants, retired into the interior, and nothing has since occurred to disturb the peaceable occupation of the town, which the Spaniards hold in the name of the allies as well as their own, until the arrival of the English and French Admirals.

They have formed an Administration for the service of the Custom-house, Post Office, Town Council, &c. All duties levied are to be divided hereafter, according to the claims of each nation on the Government of the Republic.

On arriving here, the Governor of the town immediately sent me a guard of honour, which I dispensed with, and both himself and the General-in-chief offered their services to me in the kindest manner. The day following I called on them, and they, as well as the Admiral, then assured me that everything they had done was considered by them as a mere temporary measure employed until the arrival of the allies.

Their troops are a very fine body of men, and are kept under strict discipline, so that no complaints have been made against them by the inhabitants of the town.

The Mexicans are fortifying some very strong mountain-passes, where they mean to resist the march of the allies on the capital; but as long as the Spaniards keep within their lines here they do not intend to molest them, except by cutting off, as far as they can, all supplies of provisions from entering the town. As fresh meat was becoming scarce here a few days ago, General Gasset was about seizing on three of the neighbouring villages to obtain cattle, but I strongly advised him not to take such a step before the arrival of the French and English forces, as by so doing he would only bring on a collision with the Mexican forces outside the town, which it was most advisable to avoid, owing to the bitter feeling still existing in this country against the Spaniards. The General most readily yielded to my wishes, and although the troops were already out and under arms, he consented to change his projected expedition into a mere military promenade, to be made round the outer works of the town.

I at the same time wrote to General Uruga, commanding the Mexican forces outside, strongly advising him to allow provisions to enter the town for the sake of his own countrymen shut up in it, and also to avoid any hostile movement until the arrival of the allied squadrons in this harbour. This suggestion was also well received, as the General replied that he would do all in his power to carry out my wishes.

I am most anxious to give time for the formation of a respectable Government, who will understand that it is for their interest to receive the intervention in a friendly and not a hostile spirit, so as to aid them to re-establish order, and take the opinion of those who alone are entitled to have a voice in the matter. Hitherto the men of property and intelligence have been completely silenced and domineered over by the rabble, who elected from their own class the members of a Congress which, besides being a disgrace to the country, rendered anything like good government impossible.

The nation are now thoroughly frightened at the formidable coalition formed against them, and will be more disposed to grant what we want before blood has been shed and their passions excited, than they will be when once engaged in a struggle with the Spaniards.

The rejection of my Convention by the Congress, as described in my last month's correspondence, had the effect of breaking up the late Cabinet, and the crisis which then ensued brought General Doblado forward, who would only consent to form a Government on the condition of having full powers conferred on him by Congress, authorizing him to settle pending questions with the three Powers as he deemed best. Having obtained these he adjourned the Assembly until April next, and now remains unfettered to make the best arrangement he can with us.

He is a man of such talent and influence in the country that the Reactionary Chiefs began to lay down their arms and give in their adhesion on his appointment becoming known, and he is now engaged in forming his Cabinet from the best men he could find, irrespective of their political opinions.

His first act was to entreat me not to leave Mexico, as he was, he said, now able to conclude an arrangement with me that would give England positive guarantees for the due fulfilment of their engagements towards us. As this overture was made to me after the arrival of last month's mail bringing English newspapers in which it was positively stated that a Convention was about being signed, binding the three Powers to a joint intervention in Mexico, I could not, of course, take advantage of an offer which, under other circumstances, I should have gladly availed myself of.

Everything depends on the manner in which matters are managed here at first. If the intervention is properly received it will prove a blessing to the country; but, on the other hand, violent measures at first will spoil all, and engage us in an undertaking the difficulties of which can hardly be overrated.

Fortunately, the Spanish Commanders, both military and naval, appear to be men of great prudence and discretion, and up to the present moment they have shown a spirit of justice and conciliation which speaks highly in their favour.

In a long conversation I had with Admiral Rubalcava the day before yesterday, he expressed his opinion on this subject in terms nearly identical to those I have now used in giving my own.

I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Trait d'Union," in which your Lordship will find the summons of the Spanish Admiral demanding the surrender of the town, as well as the President's Address to the nation on the present state of affairs.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Extract from the "Trait d'Union" of December 19, 1861.

LA SOMMATION DU CHEF DE L'ESCADRE ESPAGNOL.

*Commandance-Générale de Forces Navales de
Sa Majesté Catholique dans les Antilles.*

M. le Gouverneur,

LA longue série d'outrages infligés au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique par celui de la République Mexicaine, les violences réitérées, commises contre des sujets Espagnols et l'obstination aveugle avec laquelle le Gouvernement du Mexique s'est refusé constamment à écouter les justes réclamations de l'Espagne, toujours présentées avec la modération et le décorum propres à une nation aussi noble ("hidalgo"), ont mis mon Gouvernement dans le cas de rejeter tout espoir d'obtenir, par la voie de la conciliation, un règlement satisfaisant des graves différends existant entre les deux pays. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Catholique, résolu, cependant, à obtenir réparation complète ("cumplida") pour tant d'outrages, m'a ordonné de commencer mes opérations en occupant la place de Vera Cruz et la château de San Juan de Ulúa, qui seront conservés, comme gage ("prenda pretoria") jusqu'à ce que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté s'assure que, dans l'avenir, la nation Espagnole sera traitée avec la considération qui lui est due, et que les pactes qui seront célébrés entre les deux Gouvernements seront religieusement observés.

Vous me communiquerez, par l'intermédiaire de M. le Consul Français, chargé de représenter les intérêts commerciaux de l'Espagne, dans le délai le vingt-quatre heures comptées du moment où vous recevrez la présente sommation, si vous êtes ou non disposé à me livrer la place et le château; dans l'intelligence que si la réponse est négative, ou si je n'ai reçu aucune réponse à l'expiration du délai, vous pouvez dès ce moment considérer les hostilités commencées, et l'armée Espagnole débarquera dans ce but.

Je ne dois pas vous cacher que s'il est vrai que je fais la présente sommation seulement au nom de l'Espagne, suivant les instructions que j'ai reçues, l'occupation de la place et du château servira également de garantie pour les droits et les réclamations qu'auront à faire valoir contre le Gouvernement Mexicain, les Gouvernements de la France et de la Grande Bretagne.

Il me reste à vous faire observer que la mission des forces Espagnoles ne se rattache en rien à la politique intérieure du pays ("en nada se roza con la política interior del país") : toutes les opinions seront respectées ; on ne commettra aucun acte censurable, et du moment où nos troupes occuperont Vera Cruz, les Chefs Espagnols répondront de la sécurité des personnes et des intérêts de ses habitants, quelle que soit leur nationalité. Il vous appartient ainsi qu'aux autres autorités de donner des garanties aux étrangers jusqu'à ce que la dite occupation se réalise, soit pacifiquement, soit de vive force. Si les sujets Espagnols et les autres étrangers étaient persécutés et maltraités, les forces qui composent cette expédition se verraient dans la dure mais impérieuse nécessité de recourir aux représailles.

J'entretiens l'espoir que, quelle que soit votre résolution, vous agirez avec la prudence qu'on doit attendre, et vous pénétrant que les forces Espagnoles, toujours humaines, toujours nobles et loyales, même avec leurs ennemis, ne feront pas le premier pas dans la voie des violences réprouvées même en cas de guerre, vous éviterez toute sorte de crimes dont le seul résultat serait de rendre plus difficile, sinon impossible, le règlement des questions internationales pendantes.

Je profite, &c.

Vapeur "*Isabel la Catolica*," et mouillage d'Anton Lizardo, le 14 Décembre, 1861.

(Signé) JOAQUIN GUTIERREZ DE RUBALCAVA.

A M. le Gouverneur de l'Etat de Vera Cruz, &c.

Le Gouvernement Suprême à M. le Gouverneur de l'Etat de Vera Cruz.

Ministère des Relations Extérieures et de Gobernacion.

Le Citoyen Président, à qui j'ai rendu compte de la communication officielle que vous a adressée le Commandant des Forces Navales Espagnoles, et de celle que vous avez envoyée à ce Chef en réponse, m'ordonne de vous dire de suivre ponctuellement les instructions qui vous ont été données par anticipation, pour le cas, aujourd'hui réalisé, de la rupture ouverte des hostilités de la part des sujets de l'Espagne, et de laisser, en matière militaire, l'action libre au Citoyen-Général Uruga, qui commande-en-chef l'armée Mexicaine, afin qu'il agisse également, dans sa sphère, conformément aux instructions détaillées qui lui ont été données.

Il serait peu convenable pour le Gouvernement de la République de s'adresser à un chef qui, passant par dessus les formes du droit des gens, commence par intimor la reddition d'une place. Le cri de guerre que la nation a lancé spontanément, marque au Gouvernement le chemin qu'il doit suivre, et ce ne sera pas le Citoyen-Président de la République qui reculera devant une invasion étrangère, avec d'autant plus de raison que, dans la circonstance, le Mexique ne fait que repousser la force par la force, en vertu de son droit naturel incontestable.

Je vous adresse également, par disposition suprême, un exemplaire du Décret et de la circulaire qui sont envoyés aujourd'hui, par extraordinaire, aux citoyens Gouverneurs des Etats, en vous recommandant de seconder, avec l'énergie et l'activité que commandent les circonstances, la pensée du Gouvernement ; le Citoyen-Président ne doute pas qu'à l'aide de cette fidèle exécution, l'invasion qui menace de détruire notre liberté et notre indépendance sera repoussée.

Liberte et Réforme !

Mexico, le 17 Décembre, 1861.

(Signé)

MANUEL DOBLADO.

Au Citoyen Gouverneur de l'Etat de Vera Cruz.

Circulaire aux Gouverneurs d'Etats.

Ministère des Relations Extérieures et de Gobernacion.

Par ordre du Citoyen-Président, j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre copie des communications officielles échangées entre le Commandant des forces Espagnoles à Vera Cruz et le Citoyen-Gouverneur de cet Etat, ainsi que du Décret et Manifeste que le Magistrat Suprême de la République a cru devoir publier aujourd'hui, pour que les Etats se préparent à la défense de l'indépendance.

Après avoir épuisé les moyens d'un arrangement pacifique entre l'Espagne et le Mexique, le Gouvernement de la République, fort de la conscience de sa justice et ressentant l'impulsion de l'opinion populaire prononcée pour la guerre, accepte celle qu'ont commencée les forces Espagnoles d'une manière si inusitée, parceque son droit de repousser la force par la force est incontestable, et il proteste, devant le monde civilisé, que la responsabilité des événements postérieurs retombera toute entière et uniquement sur le Gouvernement de la Reine d'Espagne qui a fait siennes, d'une manière si inconsiderée, les injustes accusations sur lesquelles ont entendu spéculer les ennemis de la liberté du Mexique.

Malgré nos dissensions intestines, le sentiment pour l'indépendance et la haine contre les anciens dominateurs du pays se maintiennent vivants, bien que la seconde soit atténuée par l'effet des lumières et de la civilisation du siècle.

Le Citoyen Président, en arborant le drapeau de la nationalité Mexicaine, ne fait que suivre le torrent de l'opinion générale, et a la plaisir de voir groupés autour de lui, au jour du conflit national, la plupart des Mexicains qui restaient désunis pour cause d'opinions politiques, mais qui ont abandonné les partis intestins au premier appel de la patrie.

Bien que le Gouvernement ait tout droit d'expulser du territoire de la République les Espagnols qui y résident, il n'a pas voulu le faire quant à présent, car il a confiance en ce que ces derniers, répondant à la générosité avec laquelle on les traite, observeront la stricte neutralité que leur position leur conseille. Le Citoyen Président a donné ainsi un nouveau témoignage de la prudence avec laquelle il s'est conduit dans ses relations extérieures, en prouvant, par des faits irréfutables, qu'il n'a pas la faute si ces relations en sont venues au malheureux état dans lequel elles se trouvent actuellement.

Le Citoyen Président espère donc qu'en donnant une prompte et stricte exécution au Décret dont j'ai parlé dès le début, vous mettrez en marche, aussitôt que possible, le contingent de force armée qui vous est signalé, et que vous userez en outre de toutes les ressources que vous permet votre Gouvernement pour mettre l'Etat de votre digne commandement dans l'attitude imposante qui lui correspond, en excitant par tous les habitants du même Etat, afin qu'ils contribuent à la défense commune, et pour que, dans le cas malheureux où l'ennemi pénétrerait dans l'intérieur, tous les habitants du pays se lèvent en masse et opposent, avec leur épée et leur constance, une muraille invincible à l'audace de nos envahisseurs.

Que la mémoire d'Hidalgo, de Morelos et de Guerrero soit un exemple pour les Mexicains, et que la bannière qui flottera dans les rangs de notre armée, à l'heure du combat, ait pour inscription : "Vive l'Indépendance ! Vive la République !"

Liberté et Réforme.

Mexico, le 17 Décembre, 1861.

(Signé)

MANUEL DOBLADO.

Au Citoyen Gouverneur de l'Etat de

MEXICO.

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the Affairs of Mexico.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1862.*

PART II.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

AFFAIRS IN MEXICO.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

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Correspondence relating to the Affairs of Mexico.

PART II.

No. 1.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received February 4.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 30, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of Earl Russell, a copy of a letter, dated the 1st instant, from Commodore Dunlop, with its inclosure from Captain Von Donop, of the "Jason," reporting the occupation of the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa and town of Vera Cruz by Spanish troops on the 17th December last.

Commodore Dunlop has reported that he had been joined in the "Challenger" by the "Mersey," "St. George," "Sanspareil," and "Barracouta," and that it was his intention to proceed direct to Vera Cruz, in command of the British portion of the allied expedition to Mexico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W: G. ROMAINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Challenger," off Cape St. Antonio, Cuba, January 1, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an extract from a letter from Captain Von Donop, of Her Majesty's ship "Jason," reporting the arrival at Vera Cruz of the Spanish portion of the allied expedition against Mexico, the landing of the Spanish troops, and the occupation by them of the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa and town of Vera Cruz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Captain Von Donop to Commodore Dunlop.

(Extract.)

I FOUND the Fort of San Juan d'Ulloa, and the forts north and south of the city of Vera Cruz, nearly dismantled, all the guns, with a few exceptions, having been dismounted, and together with their carriages, powder, musketry, and various other stores, sent some twenty miles into the country, where, I understand, they remain for want of carriage to take them further.

On the 8th, about 1 p.m., the first division of the Spanish expedition, consisting of eleven steamers, passed this, and anchored at Anton Lizardo. The following morning the Spanish ship "Conception," taken some time since by the Mexicans, and lying dismantled off Vera Cruz, was wilfully set fire to and burnt to the water's edge.

On the 10th, about noon, the second division of the Spanish expedition, consisting of nine men-of-war and six transports, passed this, and also anchored at Anton Lizardo. As this portion of the squadron appeared to be commanded by a Rear-Admiral, whose flag was flying in a paddle-wheel steamer, I saluted him with eleven guns as he passed the

anchorage, which was duly returned. The same afternoon I availed myself of the polite invitation of the captain of the French frigate "Foudre" to accompany him in his gun-boat, for the purpose of paying the Spanish Admiral a complimentary visit.

During our visit the Admiral informed us, that some time on the following day, he intended informing us as to what his orders and intentions were with regard to Mexico. We were received on board with great politeness, and on our quitting both the English and French flags were saluted with nine guns.

The following day, about noon, the Spanish Admiral came up to the anchorage in a gun-boat, and, after paying the "Foudre" and "Ariadne" a visit, came on board this ship, and proposed that a conference should be held on board the "Foudre," and if convenient to me at once, which I assented to, and, after saluting him with thirteen guns on quitting, I went on board the "Foudre," where the conference was held, at which were present the Spanish Rear-Admiral with his Secretary, the captain of the "Foudre," and myself. At this meeting the Admiral informed us that some months since Spain had ordered an expedition to be fitted out for the purpose of obtaining redress from Mexico for the various and numerous insults Spain had received from that country.

That when the expedition was (with the exception of two frigates daily expected from Europe) fully equipped, news reached Cuba that, in all probability, both England and France would join Spain in the expedition.

The two frigates having arrived, and everything being in readiness, the Governor-General of Cuba ordered the expedition to leave for Mexico, and the Admiral was desired, in the event of falling in with any of Her Majesty's ships, or those of the French Imperial navy, to ask their co-operation in demanding possession of the Fort St. Juan d'Ulloa and the city of Vera Cruz, as it had been the original intention of Spain to take possession of these places as a guarantee, before it was known that England and France intended to take part in the expedition against Mexico, and that should the surrender of these places be refused, he purposed taking them by force.

I declined taking any part in offensive operations against Mexico, as I had no orders to that effect; the captain of the "Foudre" also declined taking any part.

The Admiral then informed us that it would have afforded him great pleasure to have had our co-operation, but as we had no orders to act he should demand, in the name of Spain, the surrender of the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa and the city of Vera Cruz, giving forty-eight hours for decision, but the holding of these places should be on behalf of England, France, and Spain jointly. If the Mexicans declined to surrender he should use force to compel them.

In taking these measures the Admiral pledged himself that in taking and holding these places, Spain would only do so for these Powers;

That in the event of the allies arriving, no opposition would be made by Spain to their landing any number of men in these places and holding joint possession;

That the Spanish forces would not advance beyond the walls of these places, and only act on the defensive till the arrival of the allies;

That any funds found in the public treasuries would be reserved for the disposal of the allied Powers;

That Spain would not enter into any Treaty with Mexico till the arrival of the allies;

That Spain pledged herself to protect all foreigners and their property to the utmost of her power;

That in the event of a blockade being found necessary, it would only be in force to the exclusion of Mexican vessels;

That should Mexico make any resistance to the castle and town being taken by Spain, it might be necessary to cause the removal of the various merchant-ships now at anchor between those places, but that directly Spain got possession the vessels would be permitted to resume their former position.

As I am fully aware of the great hatred the Mexicans in general bear to Spain, I asked the Admiral why he could not postpone operations till the arrival of the allies, who, I felt convinced, would be well received, and no opposition offered to their landing and taking quiet possession of the town and fort.

To this he replied that, in the first place, his orders compelled him to commence operations against Mexico, and, secondly, that the health of the troops compelled their being landed at once.

I then suggested to the Admiral that as, in all probability, the entire Mexican Government would evacuate the town and fort directly they received his summons, I feared by so long a period as forty-eight hours being given, anarchy and riot would probably prevail in the town during the interval of the summons and the actual taking possession, which might be attended with great risk to foreigners.

To this the Admiral replied that he should regret exceedingly if any foreigners suffered, but he feared he could not well give a shorter summons.

Thus ended the conference, and I think if Spain acts up to her pledges, her taking temporary sole possession of these places cannot be of any material consequence, whatever may be the future intentions of the allies.

On the 15th, about 3 p.m., a squadron of twelve Spanish steamers anchored between us and the main, evidently intending to land a portion of their troops, as three gun-boats (row) were sent in-shore to protect the disembarkation; but about 5 the breeze and swell having considerably increased from the northward, the intention was abandoned, and during the night the squadron resumed its former position off Sacrificios.

On the 16th, about 4 p.m., two paddle steam-frigates, one bearing the Admiral's flag, proceeded from this and both anchored close on the south-west side of the Fort of San Juan d'Ulloa, where they remained for the night.

On the 17th, the Spanish troops commenced landing both at the town and the fort, and at noon the Spanish flag was hoisted on all the forts of Vera Cruz, and also in the Fort of San Juan d'Ulloa, where it was saluted with twenty-one guns by the Spanish Admiral off Vera Cruz, and also by the Spanish Commodore off Sacrificios.

The disembarkation of troops has continued, though it has been considerably delayed by fresh northers setting in during the afternoon. I should think about 3,000 have been landed.

Shortly after the Spanish Commodore had saluted the Spanish flag on the Fort of San Juan d'Ulloa, he sent to inform me that had he known the Admiral intended saluting he would have given me notice, but he was only following his superior orders.

I did not consider it necessary to salute, as by so doing I felt I should be insulting the Mexican Republic. As yet the French frigate has not saluted.

The town continues to be perfectly quiet, though about 5,000 inhabitants appear to have quitted it: all the shops are open.

An efficient police is established, who have already apprehended numerous thieves.

I communicated with Her Majesty's Consul yesterday, who does not need my assistance.

No. 2.

Earl Russell to Lord Bloomfield.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 5, 1862.

WITH reference to the subject of the offer of the Crown of Mexico to the Archduke Maximilian of Austria, I have to instruct you to inform Count Rechberg that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to abide strictly by the terms of the Convention of the 31st of October, concluded between Great Britain, France, and Spain, relative to the intervention in Mexico.

No. 3.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received February 8.)

(Extract.)

Paris, February 5, 1862.

I OBSERVED to M. Thouvenel that I was bound to inform Her Majesty's Government if I had any reason to believe that the stipulation of non-intervention in the internal affairs of Mexico, which had been introduced into the Convention of the 31st October, 1861, was possibly about to be overstepped. M. Thouvenel replied that the Imperial Government would certainly not attempt to impose any Government whatever on the Mexican people.

No. 4.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 9.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, January 30, 1862.

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions I have communicated with Marshal O'Donnell and Señor Calderon Collantes upon the subject of your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd instant.*

* See Part I, No. 118, where, by a misprint, the despatch is dated January 19.

My first interview was with Marshall O'Donnell.

As soon as I had read to his Excellency your Lordship's despatch, he said that he observed, with satisfaction, that the ideas and intentions of the Spanish Cabinet in regard to Mexico were entirely in accord with those of Her Majesty's Government.

With respect to the departure of the Spanish expedition from the Havana before it had been joined by the English and French forces, it was a circumstance caused by the distance of the scene of action from the seat of Government, and the consequent failure of the timely arrival of its instructions to the officer in command of the Spanish forces, modifying those of which he was already in possession, the nature of which had never been concealed from Her Majesty's Government, or that of France. His Excellency referred to General Gasset's Proclamations to the army and to the inhabitants of Vera Cruz of the 17th December last, as showing conclusively that the Spanish Government never entertained an intention, either of making a conquest of Mexico, of setting up any particular Government there, or of furthering any views of exclusive interest. He could see nothing in this to cause uneasiness, but rather a proof that the Spanish Government at no time entertained views at variance with the conditions of the Convention which they afterwards signed with England and France.

With respect to the preamble and the Article of the Convention which defined what our intervention is intended to do, and what it is not intended to do, Marshal O'Donnell observed that it was unnecessary to refer to the text of the Treaty, inasmuch as he was fully acquainted with its terms and penetrated with its meaning, from which he never had intended, or now contemplated, to depart in the slightest degree.

He was fully aware, and had uniformly declared, that the allied forces are not to be used for the purpose of depriving the Mexicans of the right to choose their own Government. Such were the conditions of the Convention with England and France, and such, he would add, was his opinion of what the principle of an intervention in Mexico ought to be, long before that Convention was signed, and when an intervention by Spain alone had been decided upon. I might recollect, his Excellency observed, that such had been the opinion he had expressed to me when we conversed upon the subject at La Granja in August last, and from that opinion, now become an engagement, he had never swerved.

To what design of using the allied troops "to set up a Government repugnant to the sentiments of Mexico," allusion was made in your Lordship's despatch, he was, therefore, at a loss to understand. If it was to a plan which he had been informed was agitated by some persons, he meant that of establishing a Monarchy in Mexico under an Austrian Archduke, he could only say that no such plan had been originated or entertained by the Spanish Government, nor had any communication of its existence in the quarter alluded to been ever made to them, either at Paris or Madrid. He would go further, and tell me unreservedly that were such a plan to be proposed to him, it would be met with his decided disapproval. He entirely agreed with your Lordship's observations as to the inevitable consequences of such an attempt by the allies to impose any particular form of government upon Mexico; she must be left free to choose for herself. A Government imposed by the allies, the allies would be bound to support; and, speaking for Spain, he would most decidedly decline to guarantee the continuance of any form or species of government in Mexico.

With respect to the particular combination in question, it would be unnecessary for him to do more than to refer me to the opinion which he expressed to me when an idea was agitated of conferring the sovereignty of Mexico on a Spanish Prince. It appeared to him to be so extravagant as to be scarcely worthy of consideration. The present plan was not less so. A monarchy under an European Prince, if not guaranteed by Europe, would not last a year; if guaranteed and supported by Europe, it would be a fruitful source of struggles between European Powers and those of America who had adopted Republican institutions and repelled European interference in the New World.

"I am not aware," said Marshal O'Donnell, smiling, "of the wishes or disposition of the illustrious individual whose name has been brought forward on this occasion, but I can only repeat what I have often before said to you on this subject, viz., that being neither Archduke nor Prince, but simply a Spanish General Officer, and supposing (what, however, is impossible) that the Crown of Mexico were offered to me, I should not hesitate for a moment to refuse it. I have lived too long in contiguity with Mexico, when Captain-General of Cuba, not to be somewhat acquainted with the manners and political habits of that country, and the knowledge of them which I have acquired has certainly not led me to the conclusion that Monarchy under an European Prince would succeed in reducing it to order."

Marshal O'Donnell summed up by saying that he could not see that there existed, in reality, any difference of view between the two Governments; and that no plan had

been proposed to, or been entertained by, the Spanish Government, which involved a deviation from the principles of joint action in regard to Mexico laid down in the Tripartite Convention.

At a later hour on the same day I saw Señor Calderon Collantes, and read to him your Lordship's despatch.

His Excellency's language was entirely conformable to that of Marshal O'Donnell in repelling any idea, on the part of the Spanish Government, of a departure from the terms or the spirit of the Convention, and in denying that any plan had been proposed to them which involved such a departure. Of the design of establishing a Monarchy in Mexico under the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian he had, indeed, heard. He did not know where such a design may or may not have found favour, but it certainly had not done so at Madrid. He had no reason to think that it had done so at Paris, for no communication had been made on this subject by the French Government to that of Spain.

His Excellency protested, in the strongest manner, that the whole conduct of the Spanish Government in regard to this matter had been perfectly frank and straightforward. There had been no *arrière-pensée* on their part from the beginning, nor was there now. The objects meant to be obtained by the Spanish Government, in their proceedings with regard to Mexico, were those which they had declared them to be, first on their own account, and afterwards by the terms of the Convention with England and France, and they had no other.

His Excellency expressed the earnest desire to act in entire harmony with Her Majesty's Government, but did not disguise from me that he felt somewhat touched at what seemed to imply a sort of doubt on their part of the entire frankness of the Spanish Government. There were some phrases in your Lordship's despatch which he did not think quite just, and which seemed to indicate a disposition on the part of Her Majesty's Government to give ear to suggestions unfavourable to the sincerity of Her Catholic Majesty's Government. This was a disposition the existence of which he would deeply regret, but he felt sure, at the same time, that it would disappear after a candid examination of a correct report of the facts of the case.

No. 5.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 9.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 31, 1862,

I DID not fail to communicate to Señor Calderon Collantes your Lordship's reply to my telegram of the 29th instant, stating that Her Majesty's Government placed entire reliance upon the assurances of the Spanish Government.

His Excellency received this communication with evident satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 6.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 9.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, January 31, 1862.

SEÑOR CALDERON COLLANTES sent for me this evening, and inquired whether I could furnish him with any information regarding the design attributed to the French Government of establishing a Monarchy in Mexico, under the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria. The Spanish Government had, his Excellency said, received no intelligence of this design, although it was much talked of, and, taken together with the avowed intention of the French Government to increase the force of the expedition against Mexico, had given rise to agitation and comment in certain political circles at Madrid.

What his Excellency, therefore, wished to know was, whether any communication on the subject had been made to Her Majesty's Government by the Cabinet of the Tuileries. In your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd instant, which I had read to him on the previous day, his Excellency remarked that there was certainly no direct mention of the particular design in question; yet there was, it seemed to him, an evident allusion to some plan of interference in the affairs of Mexico inconsistent with the terms of the

Tripartite Convention, the prosecution of which Her Majesty's Government deprecated; and to which, as he had stated to me, whatever it might be, the Spanish Government would be equally averse.

I replied that I had no knowledge of any communication having been made to Her Majesty's Government by the French Government in regard to the design in question. M. Thouvenel had certainly stated to Lord Cowley that the French expeditionary force would be increased by 3,000 or 4,000 men, and placed under the command of an officer of equal rank with General Prim; but the reasons alleged for these measures were the necessity of guarding against any disaster to the French troops, now that it appeared that they would have to march into the interior, and because the French nation would not view with satisfaction any superiority of numbers on the part of another nation with which it was engaged in combined military operations.

Señor Calderon Collantes remarked that he was aware of the intended reinforcement of the French forces, and to the reasons alleged for it he had nothing to object. Of these the Emperor of the French was the best judge; but if these reinforcements were coincident with the announcement of an ulterior political object, the matter would wear a different aspect.

His Excellency went on to say that Spain having, from the beginning, set aside every idea of making a conquest of Mexico; having entertained no plan of establishing a Monarchy in that country under a Spanish Prince; having faithfully adhered to the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of Mexico, both at the time she had determined to act there on her own account, and afterwards when, by the Tripartite Convention, that principle became an engagement towards her allies;—Spain, he said, was naturally anxious to be assured that no candidate for the Monarchy of Mexico was about to be put forward in any other quarter. It was evident that the Spanish nation, although perfectly willing to go forward, in the course necessary for the vindication of its honour, upon the principle of non-intervention, would never brook the notion that it had been used as a tool to subserve other interests, and to forward other political designs. The Spanish Government had turned a deaf ear to the suggestions of an ill-understood ambition in regard to Mexico, and had been approved by the nation in rejecting the idea of a Monarchy under a Spanish Prince; but it might not be so if a Spanish Administration were to lend itself to favour and assist a similar combination in favour of a Prince of any other nation.

His Excellency said that this being the case he felt sure I would excuse him if he inquired whether I was aware of any overture having been made by His Majesty the King of the Belgians to Her Majesty's Government, with a view to putting forward a Prince of His Majesty's family, the Duc de Flandres, as a candidate for the future crown of Mexico: and if so, whether that Prince was to be regarded as the candidate of Great Britain.

I replied that I had received no information of any such an overture having been made, and that I disbelieved the fact. I added that I felt assured Her Majesty's Government would entertain no proposal at variance with the provisions of the Convention they had concluded with Spain and France, and that, consequently, they would put forward or favour the claim of no candidate for the Government of Mexico, either as King or President, it being their fixed determination not to interfere with the Mexicans in the choice of their own rulers and constitution.

Señor Calderon Collantes expressed himself as entirely satisfied with these assurances, based, as I informed him, upon my knowledge of the principles upon which Her Majesty's Government had proceeded from the beginning of this affair, and from which I felt assured they had not the slightest inclination to depart.

No. 7.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 9.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 3, 1862.

AS Marshal O'Donnell, in the conversation with me which I have recounted in my despatch of the 30th ultimo, referred to the Proclamation of General Gasset to the Spanish army and to the inhabitants of Vera Cruz, as showing satisfactorily that no uneasiness as to the designs of the Spanish Government need be felt in consequence of the premature departure of the Spanish expedition from the Havana; and as I perceive, on the other hand, that its tone is alluded to by Her Majesty's Government as unsatisfactory, and that the omission in it of all mention of the French and English forces is

objected to by the French Government, I have thought it right to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of it extracted from the "Gazette of Madrid."

It is to be observed that the report of the landing of the Spanish forces at Vera Cruz, and of General Gasset's Proclamation, first reached London from unofficial sources via New York, and that the official despatches relating the event reached the Spanish Government much later via Cadiz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Extract from the "Diario Español" of January 23, 1862.

(Translation.)

Proclamations of General Gasset.

Expeditionary Division to Mexico. Staff. General Order of December 16, 1861, on the coast of Mocambo.

Soldiers,—THE Spanish army finds everywhere glorious recollections of its valour and self-denial. On these very shores there is still a trace of Ferdinand Cortes, who with a handful of Spaniards planted, with the banner of Castille, the sign of the Cross and of civilization, astonishing the world by his marvellous feats.

Our present mission is also glorious: it is intended to demand satisfaction from the Mexican Government for the insults offered to our flag; to exact the fulfilment of Treaties; to prevent the repetition of acts of violence towards our countrymen, and to prove here, as was lately proved in Africa, and as our companions in arms prove by their deeds in Asia, that Spain is never insulted with impunity, and that distances disappear when her honour is called in question.

On taking command of this Division, I did not hesitate to guarantee the success of the enterprise, because I know that an appeal is never made in vain to your valour and enthusiasm, that your discipline is equal to your ardour, and that you will be as humane and generous to the vanquished, as strong and terrible towards those who are opposed to you in action.

Soldiers,—Our brilliant navy shares our labours, and has inaugurated them with a prosperous voyage—the presage of certain victory; and the fortress itself of Vera Cruz, has comprehended that all resistance would be useless against those who have conquered so many times in these very regions, without counting their own number or that of their adversaries.

If, therefore, your enthusiasm does not meet with obstacles, do not let it diminish on that account. Your mission will not yet be fulfilled; you will still be at the commencement of it. Opportunities will offer to you to prove that you are Spaniards, and that you will never depart from the path of honour, and then our magnanimous Queen, and all Spain, will say, "These are they who have avenged on Mexico the insults offered to our flag, and recovered the affection of those who in former times were our brothers."

Soldiers,—God save the Queen!

The Major-General,
(Signed) MANUEL GASSET.

Inhabitants of Vera Cruz,—The Spanish troops who occupy your city have no mission of conquest, no interested views. They are led solely by the duty of demanding satisfaction for the non-fulfilment of Treaties, and for the acts of violence committed upon our fellow-countrymen, as well as by the necessity of obtaining guarantees that similar outrages shall not be repeated.

Until these objects are obtained, the Spanish army, both here and wherever events may lead it, will be enabled, by means of its vigorous discipline, to preserve public tranquillity at whatever cost, to afford protection to the pacific inhabitants, and to punish with severity the disturbers of order, who will be submitted to the Military Commission, to be appointed to proceed against every kind of criminal.

Inhabitants of Vera Cruz,—You have nothing to dread; you know the Spanish soldier, and your attitude has just proved to me that you do. Devote yourselves, therefore, to your ordinary occupations, and rely upon it that the greatest pleasure which can

fall to the lot of this army, after fulfilling the mission which the Queen has entrusted to it, will be to return to its own country with the certainty of having secured your affection.

Vera Cruz, December 17, 1861.

The Commander of the Spanish Forces,
(Signed) MANUEL GASSET.

Don Manuel Gasset y Mercader, Grand Cross of the Royal and distinguished Spanish Order of Charles III, and of the American of Isabella the Catholic, Knight Commander of the Grand Ducal Crown of the Evergreen Oak of the Low Countries, Commander of the Royal and Military Orders of San Ferdinand of the first class and of San Hermenegildo, and many others for distinguished conduct in action, Major-General and Commander-in-chief of the Spanish forces in Mexico;

Having assumed the superior political and military command, having regard to the especial circumstances in which the country is placed, and being determined to punish with all the severity of military law all who in any manner whatever offend against public order, and the personal safety or property of the pacific inhabitants, I hereby decree as follows:—

Article 1. The town and the other places occupied by Spanish troops are declared in a state of siege.

Art. 2. A permanent Military Commission is hereby established, to take cognizance of every description of crime.

Art. 3. Slight faults and offences will be punished summarily.

Art. 4. Every person having in his possession fire-arms of any description whatsoever, shall deliver them at the main guard of this fortress within the period of twenty-four hours, to be counted from the publication of this Decree, without fail.

Vera Cruz, December 17, 1861.

(Signed) MANUEL GASSET.

No. 8.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received February 9.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 4, 1862.

I WAITED on Marshal O'Donnell, and fully explained to his Excellency the position of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the question of establishing a Monarchy in Mexico under the Archduke Maximilian of Austria.

I said that Her Majesty's Government did not understand that the French Government had proposed the Archduke as a candidate for the Throne of that country, as the Spanish Government had inferred from the telegram they had received from Señor Isturiz; that the French Government had not made any such proposal to the British Government, but asked whether, in case the Mexican people should choose the Archduke for their King, Great Britain would oppose such a settlement. I added, that the reply of Her Majesty's Government was, that they could not oppose the wish of the Mexican people, but they should not take any part in promoting such an arrangement; and I concluded by saying that I would now reiterate what I had already repeatedly stated, viz., that Great Britain adheres to the Convention, and will not consent to any modification or addition to it.

Marshal O'Donnell observed that he received this communication with great satisfaction, because it proved to him that the views and intentions of our two Governments in regard to Mexico had all along been, and continued to be, identical. No communication had been made to Spain by France in regard to the Archduke or a Monarchy, but if it were, their answer would be precisely the same as that of Her Majesty's Government. The Spanish Government had no candidate to put forward, and had no intention of interfering with the internal affairs of Mexico. It followed as a necessary consequence that Spain would neither give her support to any other candidate, nor oppose the Mexican nation in the free choice of the person, whether President or Monarch, whom they desire to place at the head of their Government. The only conditions which Spain would require to her consent to such an arrangement as Mexico might adopt, would be, that they should feel satisfied that the choice of Mexico was a free choice, and that it was really made in conformity with the will of the nation. A Sovereign and a Constitution set up by a faction comprising but a small fraction of the people would not be recognized

by Spain. The Presidents of the Republic had usually been brought into power by these means, but he could not admit that one of the petty local revolutions of the sort which were continually occurring in Mexico would form a satisfactory basis for so radical a change in the political Constitution of the country as the establishment of a Monarchy under an European Prince, or even for placing the Republic upon a basis offering the least guarantee for durability, or for the fulfilment of international duties.

"In short," I remarked, "your Excellency will not be satisfied with a Government got up upon what is commonly known in that country by the name of a 'pronunciamiento,' but will require it to be based upon a *bona fide* representation of the nation."

"That," replied Marshal O'Donnell, "is exactly my meaning."

At a later hour of the same day I had an interview with Señor Calderon Collantes, who had just attended a Cabinet Council which had met since I had communicated with Marshal O'Donnell.

Señor Calderon Collantes' language was in entire conformity with that used to me by the Marshal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

No. 9.

Lord Bloomfield to Earl Russell.—(Received February 10.)

(Extract.)

Vienna, February 6, 1862.

THE Mexican emigrants at Paris appear to have been the originators of the present project, and also of the one made to the Austrian Government in 1846, and I do not apprehend that much value is attached here to their opinions, or that they are considered as fairly representing those of the present day; and I may observe, that I believe the Austrian Government would certainly object to the election of the Archduke, unless they were assured that His Imperial Highness had been really called to Mexico by the unanimous feeling of the population

No. 10.

Earl Russell to Lord Bloomfield.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 13, 1862.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 6th instant, on the subject of the proposal for placing the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian on the Throne of Mexico.

With reference to this project it appears, as your Excellency observes, to have originated with the Mexican refugees at Paris.

This class of people are notorious for unfounded calculation of the strength of their partizans in their native country, and for the extravagance of their expectations of support. Marshal O'Donnell, as your Excellency will perceive by the printed papers laid before Parliament, is of opinion that the notion of establishing, by foreign intervention, a Constitutional Monarchy in Mexico is very chimerical.

Her Majesty's Government would lend no support to such a project, although they would gladly see a Government in Mexico that would maintain order and tranquillity. If our estimate of the disorganization of Mexico is correct, the Archduke, if he were to assume the Crown, would have to rely wholly on the support of the French troops.

It would take a long time so to consolidate a Throne in Mexico as to render the Sovereign independent of foreign support, even if there can be created in Mexico elements out of which a stable support for a Monarchy could be built up; and in the mean time, if the foreign support were to be withdrawn, the Sovereign might possibly be driven out by the Republicans of Mexico. Such a position would not be dignified or safe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 11.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received February 17.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February 15, 1862.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an extract from a letter of Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Maitland, dated at Callao, the 14th of January, relative to the instructions received by himself and the French Admiral regarding operations on the coast of Mexico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Rear-Admiral Sir T. Maitland to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.) *"Bacchantë," at Callao, January 14, 1862.*

I REQUEST you will inform their Lordships that I arrived at Callao on the 9th instant, and found the French Admiral (Rear-Admiral Larrien) in the "Duguay Trouin," 90 guns, screw, lying here, with the "Bayonnaise," corvette, 22 guns, and steamer "Cassini," 6 guns, also Her Majesty's ships "Clio" and "Naid," store-ships. The "Cameleon" left this port for Acapulco the day previous to my arrival.

2. I have communicated with the French Admiral, and made him acquainted with my instructions regarding operations on the coast of Mexico, and he informed me that he had received orders to co-operate with me, but not the modified orders to await a communication from the French Commissioner.*

We have, however, agreed to await the arrival of the mail due here on the 18th instant, and then to proceed direct to Panamá.

No. 12.

Lord Bloomfield to Earl Russell.—(Received February 17.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, February 13, 1862.*

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, on the subject of the offer of the Crown of Mexico to the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, I have informed Count Rechberg that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to abide strictly by the terms of the Convention of the 31st of October, concluded between Great Britain, France, and Spain, relative to the intervention in Mexico.

Count Rechberg expressed his thanks for the information which your Lordship has directed me to communicate to him, and appeared fully prepared to learn that Her Majesty's Government would be indisposed to express any other opinion on the subject than the intention to abide by the terms of the Convention.

No. 13.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 17, 1862.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 3rd of February, in which you inclose a copy of General Gasset's Proclamations to the Spanish army and to the inhabitants of Vera Cruz, and I have to observe that no mention is made in these Proclamations of the Governments of Great Britain and France as acting in concert with Spain in the operations of Mexico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received February 18.)

My Lord,

Washington, February 3, 1862.

IN my Despatches of the 10th of September and of the 21st of December last, I had the honour to convey to your Lordship information given to me by Mr. Seward on the subject of a proposed Convention with Mexico, in virtue of which the United States should assist that country in satisfying the claims for money made upon it by Great Britain, France, and Spain.

In the latter despatch I mentioned that the President had asked the advice of the Senate with regard to a draft of a Convention for the purpose stated above, which had been sent here by Mr. Corwin, the United States' Minister in Mexico. Your Lordship may remember that Mr. Seward did not acquaint me with the particulars of Mr. Corwin's draft, but that I gave some details which had transpired, and which were confidently asserted to be correct. I have some reason to doubt whether the details were in fact as accurate as they were stated to be when I wrote. The real draft, I have reason to think, provides that the United States shall lend to Mexico 10,000,000 dollars, and shall receive in return a mortgage on all the public lands, minerals, and property of every description throughout the Republic. A joint United States' and Mexican Commission would be appointed, if necessary, to administer the mortgaged property. No stipulation is proposed binding the Mexican Government to apply the 10,000,000 dollars to satisfying the foreign creditors, or to any other specified object.

It is more than a month since the advice of the Senate was asked by the President, but the Committee on Foreign Relations has not (if I be rightly informed) yet brought the matter before the House. I understand that the principal members of that Committee thought it necessary, before giving advice, to ascertain how the proposed arrangement would be viewed by the Governments of Great Britain and France. If Great Britain and France were satisfied with it, and would desist in consequence from pursuing their claims against Mexico by force of arms, it might be worth while for the United States, even in the present state of their finances, to pay a large sum to Mexico. But if Great Britain and France viewed the arrangement with displeasure, it would be very unwise to attempt to carry it into effect. This was not a moment at which to provoke unnecessarily disagreeable discussions with the Great Maritime Powers. Nor was the opinion of Spain to be wholly left out of the account. The plan could hardly be advantageous, unless it put an end immediately to European intervention in Mexico, and left it open to the United States to profit hereafter by the great mortgage. There was another consideration also which made the Committee hesitate. If the 10,000,000 dollars were paid to Mexico, as the proposed Convention provided, without any stipulation as to the object to which they were to be applied, they would no doubt be paid into the military chest, and used for the defence of the country against the European Powers. This Government would thus find itself virtually engaged to pay a subsidy for military purposes to the enemy of Great Britain, France, and Spain, and would consequently give those Powers a just cause of war against the United States. For these and similar reasons the Committee thought it unadvisable to take up the subject.

The President has, however, I hear, sent, within the last few days, a second message, and requested that the advice for which he has asked may be given without further delay. I doubt, however, whether he has been able to send any information calculated to remove the apprehensions of the Committee as to the effect of the proposed Convention on the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Spain.

As the communications between the President and the Senate on such subjects are confidential, and are discussed with closed doors, both in the Committee of Foreign Relations and in the House itself, I cannot absolutely vouch for the accuracy of all the details which I have mentioned in this despatch. I have no doubt, however, that, speaking generally, the account which I have given is substantially correct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 15.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received February 22.)

(Extract.)

Paris, February 21, 1862.

M. THOUVENEL spoke to me yesterday in terms of great dissatisfaction at the first proceedings of the Allied Commissioners in Mexico. Their Proclamation to the Mexicans had already appeared in the public papers, and his Excellency read to me the joint note which they had addressed to the Mexican Government.

M. Thouvenel said that he had received these documents without any explanations from M. Dubois de Saligny, who had referred him to Admiral Jurien de la Gravière's despatches to the Minister of Marine; these despatches, however, had not yet come to hand, so that M. Thouvenel was unable to account for the deviations both from the terms of the Convention of the 31st October last, and from the instructions furnished to the Commissioners, which characterized both the Proclamation and the joint note to the Mexican Government.

M. Thouvenel could not understand why, when the Preamble of the Convention justified a reference to the arbitrary and vexatious conduct of the authorities of the Republic of Mexico, the Commissioners had taken upon themselves to say that they had no cause of complaint against the Mexican Government, and why it was made to appear that the intervention of the three Powers was rather for the purpose of obtaining a stable Government in Mexico, than for the redressment of past wrongs to their respective subjects. Neither could he approve, as at present advised, the determination taken by the Commissioners not to send in their ultimatum to the persons directing at present the affairs of Mexico.

No. 16.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 24, 1862.

NOT having received your despatches, I am unable to form a decided opinion as to the course taken by the Commissioners of the allies at Vera Cruz; but, so far as I can judge, the Commissioners appear to Her Majesty's Government to have insisted too little on the reparation of the wrongs which the allied nations have sustained, and too much on the reorganization of the Mexican Government.

I have to repeat to you, therefore, that the objects for which the allies have sent their naval and military forces to Mexico are stated fully and explicitly in the Preamble to the Convention of the 31st of October.

Her Majesty's Government are at all times ready to give their moral support to a Government which can maintain relations of amity and punish assassins who murder foreign residents; but the construction of the form of government capable of fulfilling these conditions is a matter for the consideration of the Mexicans themselves.

The Convention takes no notice of the form of government in Mexico, except to disavow any intention to interfere with the right of the Mexican people to choose their own Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 17.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, February 25, 1862.

SINCE I wrote my preceding despatch, I have seen in the newspapers a copy or translation of the Proclamation of the Commissioners and Commanding Officers of the allied Powers, dated January 10.

Her Majesty's Government cannot approve, indeed they strongly disapprove, this Proclamation.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that your course was clearly before you. Vera Cruz having been evacuated by the Mexican forces, the allies should have sent, by proper messengers, to Mexico, the terms they demanded for the wrongs enumerated in the Preamble of the Convention.

Subsequent proceedings should have depended on the answers received ; but if an encampment out of Vera Cruz, or an advance to Jalapa, should, for sanitary or military reasons, have become necessary, it should have been asked for in terms which should have inspired respect, and not in a way to encourage resistance. But on this point I wait for your explanations before forming a final opinion.

No. 18.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 26, 1862.

WITH reference to my letter of the 23rd ultimo, I am directed by Earl Russell to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Lordship is of opinion that Commodore Dunlop should be informed that he may remove the Marines from Vera Cruz, either on board ship, or to Jalapa, if it shall be thought expedient to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 19.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received February 28.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 27, 1862.

WITH reference to your letter dated yesterday, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Russell, that their Lordships have deemed it advisable that the Marine force at Vera Cruz should be moved on board ship, in preference to being moved to Jalapa, and have given orders accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 20.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 1, 1862.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of despatches which have been addressed to Her Majesty's Minister in Mexico,* expressing the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the proceedings of the Allied Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 21.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received March 1.)

My Lord,

Paris, February 28, 1862.

I HAVE communicated to M. Thouvenel your despatches of the 24th and 25th instant to Sir Charles Wyke.

M. Thouvenel expressed his assent in your Lordship's opinion upon the Proclamation issued by the British, French, and Spanish Commissioners to the Mexican people. He said that he would write in a similar sense to M. Dubois de Saligny, though he could hardly pronounce himself so strongly, because the French Commissioners had objected to the Proclamation, and had only joined in it in order not to separate themselves from their colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 22.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received March 1.)

(Extract.)

Paris, February 28, 1862.

IN conversing yesterday with M. Thouvenel on the present state of affairs in Mexico, his Excellency said that there appeared to be some misunderstanding respecting the French claims, Sir C. Wyke having told M. Dubois de Saligny that he could not support them without having first submitted them to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. M. Thouvenel observed that he had never understood that the Commissioners were, as it were, to sit in judgment on the claims of their respective Governments. He did not suppose that Her Majesty's Government would submit their demands to the sanction of the Imperial Government any more than that they would desire to have a voice in the French claims. Besides, if these matters were to be referred to Europe, there would be no end to the delays which would ensue. His conception of the engagements existing between the three Governments was, that they were generally to support each other's demands. Of course, if any one of them put forward claims which in the opinion of the other two were extravagant or ill-founded, and the settlement of the claims of the two were thereby to be delayed, it could not be expected that they should join in what they might consider to be an act of injustice, to the detriment of their own claimants. It would be open to them to express their opinions, and if not listened to, to proceed with their own affairs. But this could not invalidate the claims of the third Power, who might prosecute them alone; it being, however, clearly understood that the said Power was still bound by the Article of the Convention of October 31st, abjuring all particular and special advantages.

I said to M. Thouvenel that he would remember that I had, by your Lordship's orders (see your despatch of the 2nd of December*), invited his Excellency to communicate to Her Majesty's Government on terms of reciprocity the conditions which they would think it necessary to require for the reparation of the wrongs which they had sustained at the hands of the Mexicans, and that his Excellency had informed me that he was unable to do so, and that he must leave it to the Commissioners to examine into and settle the amount; that I knew nothing of the reference to Her Majesty's Government to which M. Thouvenel had alluded, but that I should lose no time in communicating his observations to your Lordship.

No. 23.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 1, 1862.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatches of the 28th ultimo, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have not received any despatches from Sir Charles Wyke respecting the late proceedings of the allied Commissioners in Mexico.

Sir Charles Wyke may possibly have considered some of the French claims extravagant.

As to the existing Government, it was never understood that the Government *de facto* of Mexico was not to be treated with.

If the Mexicans show a preference to the existing Government it would be a violation of the Convention to interfere with the right of the Mexican people in that respect.

No. 24.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, January 16, 1862.

ON the 6th instant Commodore Dunlop arrived here from the Havana with a squadron consisting of seven vessels, on board one of which, the "St. George," was His Royal Highness Prince Alfred.

On the following day came Admiral de la Gravière with the French squadron, and on the 8th General Prim with two more Spanish vessels of war.

* See Part I, No. 91.

Commodore Dunlop brought me a small box, containing a joint commission for Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne and myself, and the French Admiral delivered to me on the following day a Foreign Office bag, inclosed in which were your Lordship's several despatches dated from October 31 to November 15, 1861.

Should any other despatches from the first-named date to the 2nd ultimo have been addressed to me, they have not been received, and I ought, consequently, to be furnished with their duplicates.

No. 25.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, January 16, 1862.

ON the 8th instant I received the official visits of General Prim and Rear-Admiral de la Gravière, and had long conversations with those officers as to the best means to be adopted for carrying out the intentions of the allies in our joint intervention in the affairs of Mexico.

I found that the General entirely coincided with me in thinking that every measure of conciliation should be adopted with the Mexican Government before resorting to force, and they both agreed that our first duty was to aid and assist the Mexicans in obtaining such a Government as was likely to afford more efficient protection to the lives and properties of foreigners resident in the Republic, before exacting from such a Government the execution of those engagements towards foreign Powers which their present penury and hopeless state of disorganization does not permit them to fulfil.

The so-called healthy season here will be over in March, when the great heats begin, and after which time it would be most imprudent to keep our troops on the coast, where they would be decimated by sickness and yellow fever.

I am much pleased with both General Prim and Admiral de la Gravière, and esteem myself fortunate in having to act with such colleagues.

No. 26.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, January 16, 1862.

THE first meeting of the Commissioners took place on the 9th instant, at which, on my presenting Commodore Dunlop to the French and Spanish Commissioners, it was unanimously agreed on that, in the absence of Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, he should act as Joint Commissioner with myself on the part of Great Britain in the Conferences about to take place.

General Prim having made a short summary of the events which had taken place, compelling the three Powers to intervene in the affairs of Mexico for the due protection of their respective subjects, as well as to compel the Rulers of this Republic to fulfil the Treaty obligations which they had contracted towards our Governments, dwelt on the necessity of pointing out to the Mexican people the justice of the intervention and the amicable spirit towards them in which it was offered, and would be acted on if properly received by them.

He then presented to us the project of a Proclamation to the Mexicans, which, after being duly discussed and slightly modified, was finally adopted in the form which I have the honour now to transmit to your Lordship.

The next proposal was that we should address a joint note to the Mexican Government explaining the views of our respective Governments, and at the same time inclosing a separate ultimatum in the name of each Commissioner, which was to be accepted without discussion by the Government of this Republic.

This project was also approved of, and the communication of our respective demands to each other at a future meeting agreed on.

The future government of the town, in the absence of all Mexican authorities, was next discussed; and the occupation of the Castle of Ulloa by the forces of the three nations in succession, decided on as follows:—

That each party should relieve the other at the end of every fourteen days under the command of successive captains of the navy, and that the flags of the three nations should continue to wave together whatever might be the nationality of the garrison occupying the fortress for the time being.

The next questions brought forward were the collection of the Custom-house revenue and the appointment of civil authorities, which were adjourned for future consideration, and it was then decided without discussion that all local charges and expenses should be defrayed out of such revenues to be so recovered.

The question of an occupation of the Pacific ports by the allied naval forces was left for future consideration.

It was then decided that it would be necessary to look out for some more healthy location for the troops than the town of Vera Cruz, for which purpose a reconnaissance towards Medellin and La Tejeria by the allied troops was proposed, with a view of occupying those posts, should they be found suitable for our purpose.

At this stage of the proceedings both Commodore Dunlop and myself stated that the nature of our instructions prevented us from allowing the Marines to engage in any operations removing them from the coast, both on account of the nature of the force as well as its being totally unprovided with tents and all other equipage necessary for a campaign away from their ships.

Admiral de la Gravière and General Prim both strongly urged the necessity of the Marines accompanying their respective forces on this first expedition into the interior, as were they not to do so, the Mexicans would be sure to attribute their absence to some disunion among the allies.

As there was great truth in this remark, and the places named above were only four leagues distant from Vera Cruz, the Commodore finally consented that one company should accompany the expedition, but on the express condition that the men were to return to Vera Cruz on the following day, and not to go out of it again unless our allies were attacked at these outposts, when, of course, the whole Marine force, if necessary, would march out to their assistance. The battalion is now on shore, and, through the kindness of General Prim, is quartered in by far the best barrack in the town.

The united French and Spanish forces now occupy La Tijeria with 2,400 men, and Medellin with 1,800 men.

Besides this, the Spaniards have about 2,000 more men under canvass close to the gates of this city, so that the troops now remaining here are not so dangerously crowded together as they were immediately after the landing of the French.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Proclamation of the Allied Commissioners to the Mexican People.

(Translation.)

Mexicans!

THE Representatives of England, France, and Spain, fulfil a sacred duty in letting you know their intentions as soon as they set foot upon the territory of the Republic.

The faith of Treaties, broken by the various Governments which have succeeded one another in your country, the personal safety of our countrymen continually menaced, have made this expedition necessary and indispensable.

Those deceive you who would have you believe that, behind demands as just as they are legitimate, are hidden plans of conquest, of restorations, or of intervention in your polity and administration.

Three nations who with loyalty accepted and recognized your independence, have a right to expect that you should believe them animated by no illegitimate thoughts, but rather by more noble, elevated, and generous ones. The three nations which we come here to represent, and whose primary interest may seem to be satisfaction for the outrages inflicted upon them, have a higher interest, and one that has more general and beneficent consequences. They come to stretch a friendly hand to the people on whom Providence has showered all its gifts, and whom they see, with grief, wasting their strength and destroying their vitality, under the violent action of civil war and perpetual convulsions.

This is the truth, and we, who are charged to lay it before you, do not do so as a war-cry or menace, but in order that you may build up the edifice of your prosperity, which interests us all.

It is for you exclusively, for you, without the intervention of foreigners, to constitute yourselves in a solid and permanent manner; your work will be the work of regeneration, and all will have contributed to it, some with their opinions, with their intelligence

others, with their conscience all! The evil is serious, the remedy urgent; now or never, you may make your happiness.

Mexicans! Listen to the voice of the Allies, the anchor of salvation in the dreadful tempest before which you are being driven; intrust yourselves with the greatest confidence to their good faith and upright intentions. Fear nothing on account of the unquiet and restless spirits, who, should they present themselves, your determined and decided uprightness would know how to confound, while we, lookers-on, preside at the grand spectacle of your regeneration, guaranteed by order and liberty.

Thus will it be understood, we are sure, by the Supreme Government, to whom we address ourselves; thus will it be understood by the intelligence of the country to whom we speak, and who, as true patriots, will not do otherwise than agree that they should all of them rest on their arms, and that they should only appeal to reason, which is that which should triumph in the nineteenth century.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

E. JURIE DE LA
GRAVIERE.

HUGH DUNLOP.

DUBOIS DE SALIGNY.

EL CONDE DE REUS.

No. 27.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, January 17, 1862.

IN our second conference, which took place on the 10th instant, General Prim called our attention to the fact that 200 Spanish subjects resident in Tampico had lately been expelled by the Governor, whilst the French and English living there had been allowed to continue unmolested. As he naturally considered this a very partial and unjust measure towards his countrymen he called on us to join him in addressing a joint note to the Mexican Government announcing to them that the intervention was meant for the protection of the Spaniards as well as the English and French, and that consequently any act of injustice perpetrated against the subjects of either of the Governments would be resented by all three. We had no objection, of course, in acceding to so just a demand, and a joint note was accordingly drawn up and signed by us all, but was retained for transmission at a more fitting opportunity, for reasons which I will subsequently relate.

I have already stated that in our first conference it was unanimously agreed on that we should address a joint note to the Mexican Government stating the motives which had induced the three Governments to unite for the purpose of obtaining redress for our separate grievances, and that in that note each of the Diplomatic Commissioners should inclose a separate ultimatum of his own, setting forth the demands of his Government.

This subject was now again brought forward, and it was agreed on that the joint note should be addressed by us to the President of the Republic, and that the separate demands above alluded to should be inclosed therein, and directed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

We then decided that this note should be sent up to Mexico by three officers, one English, one French, and a Spaniard, who should be instructed to remain eight days, if necessary, in that city, and then to return to us with the reply.

The officers chosen for this purpose were the Brigadier Milano del Bosch, Captain Tatham, of Her Majesty's ship "Phaeton," and Captain Thomasset, Chief of the French Admiral's Etat-Major.

The next subject treated of was the powers to be conferred on the Governor of Vera Cruz, who, it was decided, should be assisted in the exercise of his functions by a Council composed of the Consuls of the three Powers, which Council should be called together in all serious cases, and whose decisions should be decided by a majority of votes, the Governor presiding, but, of course, having no vote.

The Governor is to have no jurisdiction over either French or English soldiers, who, in case of crime, are to be subjected to their respective military authorities. All other cases are to be decided on by the Governor alone.

Our decision relative to the garrison and command of the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa, as detailed in my résumé of the first conference, was now confirmed; and it was also settled that in the absence of the French and Spanish Commanders from their forces, Commodore Dunlop should command in Vera Cruz in the name of the three Powers, with the same attributions as the Governor, that functionary during such time occupying the post of Sub-Governor.

The next thing decided on was that, for the sake of finding more healthy quarters for the troops, a body of the united forces should march next day to La Tejeria and Medellin, there to establish themselves if necessary, as described in my account of the first day's conference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 28.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, January 18, 1862.

OUR third Conference took place on the 13th instant, and M. de Saligny being absent from it in consequence of indisposition, France was represented alone by Admiral Jurien de la Gravière.

After a slight discussion as to whether our collective note should be addressed to the President of the Republic or to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, it was finally decided in favour of the first-named functionary, and agreed on that the inclosures in that note, containing the separate demands of each Government, should be delivered to the latter by the three officers whom we sent up to Mexico.

Commodore Dunlop then proposed that they should take up with them the flags of their respective nations, as a protection in case of any attack upon them; but on my pointing out that the only attack they had to fear was from robbers on the high road, who would not respect them a bit more for the flags they carried, it was resolved that they should go as at first proposed.

The business of the Conference then closed by General Prim giving me a short description of the march to La Tejeria the day before by the allied forces, composed of a company of British Marines, a battalion of Zouaves, one of French Marines, and another of Spanish Light Infantry, with some Sappers and Miners, and a squadron of Lancers.

On their way out they met with some Mexican guerillas, who retired before them until they reached the place above named, which being found well situated, a camp was formed there for the troops, and General Prim, the French Admiral, and Commodore Dunlop then rode back to Vera Cruz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 29.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, January 18, 1862.

OUR fourth Conference took place this day, and was opened by an agreement that our meetings on the evening of the 13th and the morning of the 14th instant should be considered in the light of private conversations on subjects of great delicacy and importance, which must be brought to the separate notice of our respective Governments, with a view to obtaining special instructions thereon.

In consequence of this resolution, it was determined to alter the tone and style of our joint note to the Mexican Government, and not to inclose therein the demands of our respective Governments, for reasons which I will explain in a separate despatch.

The French Minister brought to the notice of General Prim that heavy contributions were being imposed on the Spaniards at Guaymas, and then stated that the Government at Mexico was about to levy a tax of 2 per cent. on capital, for foreigners as well as natives, and that this, as well as other heavy taxes levied, could only be looked on in the light of a war tax, which the two members of the Corps Diplomatique now remaining in the capital had joined the Consular Body in protesting against.

The question remained over for future consideration.

The Spanish Commissioner then suggested the propriety of sending instructions to the English and French Admirals on the Pacific coast of this Republic to occupy the ports there, and it was decided that in the event of the Mexican Government refusing the peaceful overtures we were about to make to them, such instructions might be sent, always excepting the port of Mazatlan, but that the Admirals should be requested not to act in this sense until they had learnt, by reliable information, that hostilities had actually begun here between the allied forces and those of Mexico.

The next question discussed was that of the special claims of each nation, their amount, and the manner of presenting them; and after in vain endeavouring to persuade the French Minister to modify the demands he had drawn out, it was finally resolved, as neither General Prim nor myself could sustain them as they stood, to refer the whole question to our respective Governments, with the recommendation that a Sub-Commission of competent persons, with an Accountant, should be appointed by the three Governments to examine into and settle the amount of the special claims not included in the general terms of the Treaty.

We then agreed that each Commissioner should present his ultimatum to his colleagues, in order that these documents might be transmitted to our respective Governments, who would then be able to judge of their fitness, and whether they should be sustained or not.

As before said, neither General Prim nor myself could compromise our Governments by sustaining the ultimatum of M. de Saligny as it then stood. We again urged him to withdraw it, and only to present, in conjunction with ourselves, a demand for the fulfilment of all existing Treaties and engagements entered into between Mexico and the three Powers, leaving the others meanwhile in suspense; but he said that his instructions prohibited him from separating the recognized from the unrecognized claims: and then it was that we agreed to withhold the presentation of any sort of claim until this question should be decided on at home.

Hereon followed a conversation as to whether each of the three Governments was bound to see the claims of the two others satisfied as well as its own, and the Spanish and French Agents stated their conviction that such must be the meaning of the Treaty.

It having been rumoured that General Doblado had come down to Orizaba to treat with us, we all agreed that in such a case we would inform him of our intention not to press our claims at present, but to use our best efforts to secure the existence of a firm and respectable Government; and that in the meantime a more healthy and convenient position should be granted to the allied forces than Vera Cruz, where, from the agglomeration of troops, sickness was much to be feared.

If such could be peaceably obtained, Commodore Dunlop expressed his desire to accompany the allied forces with the battalion of British Marines, for the sake of removing them from the danger of yellow fever on the coast.

The conference closed by deciding to send a merchant-vessel, escorted by war-steamers, to the port of Alvarado, down the coast, for the purpose of purchasing cattle, mules, carts, harness, &c., &c., which would be required to enable the troops to march into the interior.

No. 30.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, January 19, 1862.

IN my despatch of yesterday's date,* I allude to conversations which took place at the Conferences on the 13th and 14th instant, on subjects of great delicacy and importance which should be brought to the separate notice of our respective Governments with a view to our obtaining special instructions thereon.

I will now endeavour to relate, as correctly and concisely as possible, what occurred on those occasions, in order to give your Lordship an idea of the difficulty which at present exists to cripple our combined action in a matter requiring the most perfect concord, provided always that the Treaty between the three Powers binds each of them to exact from the Mexican Government the acknowledgment and satisfaction of the claims brought forward by the other two. As your Lordship's instructions to me do not bear on this point, I beg to be informed whether my French and Spanish colleagues are correct in supposing and asserting, as they do, that such is really the case.

We come here, as I understand the intervention, to oblige the Mexicans to fulfil all the obligations they have contracted by their Treaties and Conventions with us, as well as to obtain from their authorities better protection for the persons and properties of our subjects residing here. So far all is clear and easily understood; but besides this, when each Agent had to send in an ultimatum embodying all the demands of his Government, it became necessary to bring forward the claims against this Government arising from losses and injuries inflicted on our countrymen for a long time past, and which still remain unsettled.

Now these claims are, as your Lordship is aware, of two sorts, that is to say, those

* No. 29.

already acknowledged by the Mexican Government as just, and those which are not so acknowledged, or which have not yet been examined into and duly presented for payment. The great difficulty an Agent has to encounter here is the management of this latter class, from the difficulty he experiences in arriving at a correct opinion as to their real validity.

Amongst the body of foreign residents in this unfortunate country, nineteen out of every twenty have a claim of some sort or other against the Government: many of them are really founded in justice, whilst others have been trumped up and fabricated as good speculations to obtain money as compensation for some imaginary injury, such as a three days' imprisonment, which they have brought on themselves, purposely, for the sake of establishing a claim, which they then bring forward at some exorbitant rate. If the Minister supports these, he is accused, of course, of great injustice by the Mexican Government; if he refuses to do so, he brings down the most lavish abuse on himself and his acts by the disappointed claimant, as your Lordship will have recently seen was the case with me in the columns of the "Mexican Extraordinary," so that, act as he will, he is nearly sure to be in hot water either one way or the other.

I have prefaced what I am about to say relative to such claims with this explanation, as it was necessary to do so in order that your Lordship may fully understand what took place in our conferences on the 13th and 14th instant, with reference to this subject of "claims."

When it was proposed by General Prim that each Commissioner should communicate to his colleagues the ultimatum he was about to send in as an inclosure in our joint note to the President, they were severally produced and perused, and it then became evident at once that neither the General nor myself could for a moment think of supporting such an ultimatum as that drawn up and presented by M. de Saligny, the French Minister. We in vain endeavoured to make him modify it by withholding all mention of the "claims" properly so called, as we were both willing to do until the whole case connected with them could be referred home for instructions, and in the mean time we requested him only to press, in common with ourselves, for those demands specified in the Convention between our three Governments; but he persisted in saying that his instructions would not allow him to do so, and we were then, therefore, obliged to come to the conclusion that we had better each withdraw his ultimatum, until we could learn whether they were approved of and intended to be supported by the joint action of our respective Governments.

I herewith inclose copies of the ultimatum we each handed in, and your Lordship will then easily understand why neither General Prim nor myself could accept the responsibility, in the name of our Governments, of supporting that of M. de Saligny.

He fixes the amount of French unsettled claims at 12,000,000 dollars, stating that he has not examined into them, as it would take him, at least, a twelvemonth to do so; but his Government having instructed him to name some particular sum for the liquidation thereof, he has named the one above mentioned as being what he considers an approximation to their value by a million or two more or less.

Now, it becomes evident from such a statement, that this is a very loose way of handling such a question as this, and the more so as the French demand is, that this and other sums claimed shall be paid without discussion by the Mexican Government, which is thus debarred from having the justice of the claims examined into either by themselves or by some third party.

As these discussions on the justice of our respective claims should be by all means avoided, we all came to the conclusion that, taking into consideration their vast importance, they should be carefully examined into and decided on by a Sub-Commission of three lawyers and an accountant, named by the three Governments, whose duty it should be to report to us the fair amount to be claimed by each Government, which, when thus ascertained, should then be insisted on in the name of all three. There is no doubt that this is the only practical solution of the difficulty we find ourselves placed in; for mutual recriminations between the Commissioners of the three Powers as to the justice of their respective demands against the Mexican Government can only lead to a total paralyzation of their joint action, and thus completely frustrate the intentions of the allies.

The next point General Prim and myself objected to in M. de Saligny's ultimatum was the demand founded on the claim of the Swiss house of Jecker and Co. in Mexico.

This I will endeavour to explain in as few words as possible, and I think your Lordship will agree with me that the claim is an extraordinary one, to say the least of it. When the Miramon Government were on their last legs, and totally penniless, the house of Jecker lent them 750,000 dollars, and received in return for the advance bonds to be payable at some future period to the amount of 15,000,000 dollars.

Shortly after this outrageous proceeding Miramon was upset, and succeeded by his rival, Juarez, who was then called on by M. Jecker, who was under French protection, to pay the above-named enormous sum, on the plea that one Government must be held responsible for the acts and obligations of the other. Juarez refused to do so, and in this resolution was supported by the opinion of all impartial people in Mexico. I have always understood that his Government was willing to repay the original sum lent of 750,000 dollars, with 5 per cent. interest thereon; but repudiated the idea of their being liable for the 15,000,000 dollars.

I need hardly say that such terms as these could never have been accepted, and any attempt to enforce such demands must have brought on immediate hostilities between the Mexican Government and the allies.

General Prim's ultimatum appears to me to be a fair and just one; and as to my own, drawn up in the absence of any special instructions bearing on the case in point, I trust it will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

Having, as already stated, agreed to suspend the presentation of our respective demands until we could obtain more explicit instructions relative to them, we then determined to alter the tone of our joint note to the President, which was finally sent in as I have now the honour to transmit it to your Lordship. We made it as conciliatory and pacific as possible, with a view to getting the moderate and rational Members of the Government to accept our intervention in a friendly, instead of a hostile, spirit.

As the Mexicans have determined to abandon their ports, and concentrate their forces in the interior, we lose all hold on them unless we follow them there, and by force dictate our own terms; which, with such a land force as the allies now have here, would be impossible, owing to the resistance we should meet with from the whole population against the Spanish portion of the expedition. To keep so large an agglomeration of European troops in this small town, with the sickly season rapidly approaching, would be worse than imprudent, and therefore it was determined to be absolutely necessary to move them into the interior, as far as the first table-lands, where are situated the towns of Jalapa, Cordova, and Orizaba. To arrive at these places, however, the troops would have to pass some most formidable mountain-passes, which the Mexicans have already fortified, and are determined to defend.

These considerations convinced both General Prim and myself that we must endeavour to obtain what was required by persuasion, instead of by force; and hence the extremely conciliatory tone of our joint note to the Mexican Government, which was despatched on the 4th instant by our three officers, as already stated. They were instructed verbally to demand a more healthy location for the allied troops, and to point out Jalapa and Orizaba as suitable places, should they not be objected to by the Government.

Having come to this resolution, the Commissioners determined to withhold the transmission of the joint note we had written about the expulsion of the Spaniards from Tampico until we received a reply to the one sent up by the three officers.

Although the French Commissioners finally adopted the line of conduct I have described, they evidently did so with reluctance, owing to the extreme hostility of M. de Saligny to the Juarez Government, which Admiral de la Gravière seems also anxious to get rid of, with the hope of establishing a monarchy in its place. Whether such a change would be beneficial or not remains to be proved; but if it does take place, it should proceed from the will of the nation itself, as any suggestion coming from us on such a subject could only be looked on by the Mexicans as an unwarrantable interference on our part.

If the present Government would frankly accept the sort of amicable protection we now offer them, an immense step will have been gained; for in such a case they could, relying on the support of our presence, use their own forces in putting down the formidable bands of robbers and malcontents who now infest all the great public thoroughfares, and, by restoring peace to the country, thereby enable the Government to collect its revenue, and offer the protection which it owes to foreigners resident in the Republic.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Ultimatum proposed to be presented to the Mexican Government by the French Commissioners.

LES Soussignés, Représentants de la France, ont l'honneur, ainsi qu'il est dit dans la note collective adressée en date de ce jour au Gouvernement Mexicain par les

Plénipotentiaires de la France, de l'Angleterre, et de l'Espagne, de formuler comme suit l'ultimatum dont ils ont ordre d'exiger au nom du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur l'acceptation pure et simple par le Mexique :—

Article 1. Le Mexique s'engage à payer à la France une somme de 12,000,000 piastres à laquelle est évalué l'ensemble des réclamations Françaises, en raison des faits accomplis jusqu'au 31 Juillet dernier, sauf les exceptions stipulées dans les Articles 2 et 4 ci-dessous.

En ce qui touche les faits accomplis depuis le 31 Juillet dernier, et pour lesquels il est fait ici une réserve expresse, le chiffre des réclamations auxquelles ils pourront donner lieu contre le Mexique sera fixé ultérieurement par les Plénipotentiaires de la France.

Art. 2. Les sommes restant dues sur la Convention de 1853, qui ne sont pas comprises dans l'Article 1 ci-dessus, devront être payées aux ayants-droit dans la forme et en tenant compte des échéances stipulées dans la dite Convention de 1853.

Art. 3. Le Mexique sera tenu à l'exécution pleine, loyale, et immédiate du contrat conclu, au mois de Février 1859, entre le Gouvernement Mexicain et la Maison Jecker.

Art. 4. Le Mexique s'oblige au paiement immédiat des 11,000 piastres formant le reliquat de l'indemnité qui a été stipulée en faveur de la veuve et des enfants de M. Ricke, Vice-Consul de France à Tépïc, assassiné en Octobre 1859.

Le Gouvernement Mexicain devra en outre, et ainsi qu'il en a déjà contracté l'obligation, destituer de ses grades et emplois, et punir d'une façon exemplaire, le Colonel Rojas, un des assassins de M. Ricke, avec la condition expresse que Rojas ne pourra plus être investi d'aucun emploi, commandement, ni fonctions publiques quelconques.

Art. 5. Le Gouvernement Mexicain s'engage également à rechercher et à punir les auteurs des nombreux assassinats commis contre des Français, notamment les meurtriers du Sieur Davesne.

Art. 6. Les auteurs des attentats commis le 14 Août dernier, contre le Ministre de l'Empereur, et des outrages auxquels le Représentant de la France a été en butte dans les premiers jours du mois de Novembre 1861, seront soumis à un châtimement exemplaire ; et le Gouvernement Mexicain sera tenu d'accorder à la France et à son Représentant les réparations et satisfactions dues en raison de ces déplorables excès.

Art. 7. Pour assurer l'exécution des Articles 5 et 6 ci-dessus, et le châtimement de tous les attentats qui ont été ou qui seraient commis contre la personne de Français résidant dans la République, le Ministre de France aura toujours le droit d'assister, en tout état de cause, et par tel délégué qu'il désignera à cet effet, à toutes instructions ouverts par la justice criminelle du pays.

Il sera investi du même droit relativement à toutes poursuites criminelles intentées contre ses nationaux.

Art. 8. Les indemnités stipulées dans le présent ultimatum porteront de droit, à dater du 17 Juillet dernier et jusqu'à parfait paiement, un intérêt annuel de six pour cent.

Art. 9. En garantie de l'accomplissement des conditions financières et autres posées par le présent ultimatum, la France aura le droit d'occuper les ports de Vera Cruz, de Tampico, et tels autres ports de la République qu'elle croira à propos, et d'y établir des Commissaires désignés par le Gouvernement Imperial, lesquels auront pour mission d'assurer la remise entre les mains des Puissances qui y auront droit des fonds qui doivent être prélevés à leur profit, en exécution des Conventions étrangères, sur le produit des douanes maritimes du Mexique, et la remise entre les mains des Agents Français des sommes dues à la France.

Les Commissaires dont il s'agit seront, en outre, investis du pouvoir de réduire, soit de moitié, soit dans une moindre proportion, suivant qu'ils le jugeront convenable, les droits actuellement perçus dans les ports de la République.

Il est expressément entendu que les marchandises ayant déjà acquitté les droits d'importation ne pourront, en aucun cas ni sous aucun prétexte que ce soit, être soumis par le Gouvernement Suprême ni par les autorités des États à aucuns droits additionnels de douane intérieure ou autres, excédant la proportion de quinze pour cent des droits payés à l'importation.

Art. 10. Toutes les mesures qui seront jugées nécessaires pour régler la répartition entre les parties intéressées des sommes prélevées sur le produit des douanes, ainsi que le mode et les époques de paiement des indemnités stipulées ci-dessus, comme pour garantir l'exécution des conditions du présent ultimatum, seront arrêtés de concert entre les Plénipotentiaires de la France, de l'Angleterre, et de l'Espagne.

Vera Cruz, le

[Neither date nor signature.]

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, Representatives of France, have the honour, as stated in the collective note addressed this day to the Mexican Government by the Plenipotentiaries of France, England, and Spain, to draw up as follows, the ultimatum of which they have received orders in the name of the Government of His Majesty the Emperor to demand the pure and simple acceptance by Mexico:—

Article 1. Mexico engages to pay France a sum of 12,000,000 dollars, at which amount are calculated the total French demands, consequent upon events which have occurred up to July last, with the exceptions stipulated in Articles 2 and 4 below.

As regards those events which have taken place since the 31st of July last, and of which a special reservation is here made, the amount of the claims against Mexico to which they may give rise will be fixed hereafter by the Plenipotentiaries of France.

Art. 2. The sums still due under the Convention of 1853, which are not included in Article 1 above, shall be paid to the rightful claimants in the form, and allowing the terms of payment, stipulated in the said Convention of 1853.

Art. 3. Mexico shall be held to the full, loyal, and immediate execution of the contract concluded in the month of February 1859, between the Mexican Government and the firm of Jecker.

Art. 4. Mexico is pledged to the immediate payment of the 11,000 dollars forming the balance of the indemnity which was stipulated for in favour of the widow and children of M. Ricke, Vice-Consul of France at Tepic, assassinated in October 1859.

The Mexican Government shall further, and according to the obligation already contracted by them, deprive of his rank and appointments, and punish in an exemplary manner, Colonel Rojas, one of the assassins of M. Ricke, with the express condition that Rojas shall not again be invested with any employment, command, or public functions whatsoever.

Art. 5. The Mexican Government also engages to search out and to punish the authors of the numerous murders committed upon Frenchmen, and especially the murderers of M. Davesne.

Art. 6. The authors of the attacks committed on the 14th of August last against the Minister of the Emperor, and of the outrages to which the Representative of France has been exposed in the first part of the month of November 1861, shall be subjected to exemplary punishment; and the Mexican Government shall be bound to afford to France and to her Representative the reparation and satisfaction due by reason of these deplorable excesses.

Art. 7. In order to ensure the execution of the above Articles 5 and 6, and the punishment for all the outrages which have been, or which may be, committed against the persons of Frenchmen residing in the Republic, the Minister of France shall always have the right of being present, whatever the case at issue, and by such Representative as he may designate for that purpose, at all proceedings instituted by the Criminal Courts of the country.

The Minister shall possess the same right with regard to all criminal prosecutions instituted against his countrymen.

Art. 8. The indemnities stipulated in the present ultimatum shall bear a legal annual rate of interest of 6 per cent., to date from the 17th July last, and until their complete payment.

Art. 9. As a guarantee for the accomplishment of the financial and other conditions laid down in the present ultimatum, France shall have the right of occupying the ports of Vera Cruz, of Tampico, and such other ports of the Republic as she shall think fit; and of there establishing Commissioners designated by the Imperial Government, whose duty it shall be to take care that those Powers which have a legal claim shall receive such funds as are to be levied for their benefit on the produce of the maritime Custom-houses of Mexico, in fulfilment of the foreign Conventions, and that French Agents shall receive those sums which are due to France.

The Commissioners in question shall, besides, be invested with the power of reducing, either by one-half or in a smaller proportion, according as they may judge advisable, the duties at present levied in the ports of the Republic.

It is expressly understood that merchandize which has already paid import duty shall in no case, and on no pretext whatsoever, be subjected by the Supreme Government, or by the State authorities, to any additional Customs duty, inland or otherwise, exceeding the proportion of 15 per cent. on the duties paid on importation.

Art. 10. All measures which shall be judged necessary for regulating the apportionment among the parties interested of the sums levied upon the produce of the Customs,

as well as the manner and the periods of the payment of the indemnities above stipulated, as also for guaranteeing the execution of the conditions of the present ultimatum, shall be framed in concert with the Plenipotentiaries of France, England, and Spain.

Vera Cruz,

[Neither date nor signature.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Proposed despatch from the Count de Reus to General Doblado.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Vera Cruz, January 14, 1862.

THE Government of Her Catholic Majesty, whom I have the honour to represent, has instructed me to demand from the Government of this Republic the satisfaction due for the outrages committed against the Spanish nation; the reparation of the injuries inflicted on the subjects of Her Majesty who reside in the Mexican territory; and the faithful observance of the solemn compacts which bind the Mexican Government towards that of Her Catholic Majesty. In fulfilment of these instructions, I have the honour to lay before your Excellency, in clear and definite terms, what the Spanish Government demands from the Government of Mexico:—

Firstly. The immediate nomination of a Representative of the Republic, who will have to leave in the shortest possible time for the Court of Madrid, with the express commission to give full satisfaction for the outrage committed on Her Majesty the Queen of Spain and the Spanish nation by the expulsion of the Ambassador Don Joaquin Francisco Pacheco.

Secondly. The immediate fulfilment of the Mon-Almonte Treaty, and the payment of the interest due from the date of the said Treaty.

Thirdly. The granting of indemnities to the Spanish subjects to whom they may be due, for the injuries inflicted on them by the crimes committed in the Haciendas of San Vicente and Chiconcuague, and in the mine of San Dimas; the recognition of the right which belongs to Spain to demand compensation for the injuries suffered by subjects of Her Majesty in consequence of the oppressive acts and outrages which have been committed, or may be committed, against them; the exemplary punishment of the perpetrators of these crimes, and of the authorities who, though able to do so, did not attempt to prevent them, and the solemn promise that for the future the repetition of such atrocious excesses will be avoided.

Fourthly. The payment of 40,000 hard dollars as value for the Spanish barque "Conception," unlawfully seized, for her cargo, and for the injury suffered by her owners and freighters.

Your Excellency will be pleased to state, in reply, whether or no the Mexican Government is disposed to accede to these demands within the precise period of four days, counted from the moment in which this communication may be placed in the hands of your Excellency.

(Signed)

EL CONDE DE REUS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Proposed despatch from Sir C. Wyke to General Doblado.

Sir,

Vera Cruz, January 12, 1862.

IN the joint note this day addressed to his Excellency the President by the Representatives of France and Spain as well as by myself, we have pointed out the imperious necessity which has compelled the three Powers we have the honour to represent, to adopt a united action for obtaining redress for those grievances of which we have such just cause to complain in common, reserving to ourselves separately the faculty of addressing to you, each in his turn, an ultimatum which we have been instructed by our respective Governments to present for acceptance to the Government of the Mexican Republic.

That of Great Britain which I have now the honour to transmit to your Excellency is as follows:—

1. That your Government will give to that of Her Majesty a positive or material guarantee for the due and punctual fulfilment of all the stipulations contained in the various Treaties, Conventions, and Agreements at present existing between England and Mexico.

2. That the 660,000 dollars forcibly taken from the British Legation, and the 279,000 and odd dollars still remaining due of the money abstracted from the "conducta" at Laguna Seca, shall be immediately repaid with 6 per cent. interest on the first-named sum, and 12 per cent. on the second, counting from the day on which the money was unlawfully appropriated by the respective authors of these outrages; and that all such sums of money owing to the London bondholders and the Convention bondholders, as were in the hands of the Custom-house authorities at the time all payments were suspended by the Law of the 17th of July last, and all such sums as in consequence of that law have been since withheld from them, shall be repaid to the owners thereof with an interest of 6 per cent. thereon.

3. That Interventors to be named by the British Government, invested with the power of reducing the import duties by one half if they consider it necessary to do so, shall be placed at the different ports of the Republic, with an equal control over the receipts of their Custom-houses as is exercised by the Mexican authorities themselves, so as to secure the just and proper distribution of that portion of the duties which is assigned to both classes of bondholders by the Conventions and Agreements above alluded to.

4. That all such claims of British subjects as have been already acknowledged by the Mexican Government shall be at once liquidated, and that all others not yet fully examined into shall, if founded in justice and right, be also acknowledged as valid when such has been proved to be the case, and paid with as little delay as possible.

The English, French, and Spanish officers who are ordered to present the despatch to his Excellency the President, in which this note forms an inclosure, will return here in four days after their arrival in Mexico, and Captain Tatham of Her Majesty's Navy will be happy to take charge of any communication you may wish to forward to me in reply to this note.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 30.

The Allied Commissioners to the President of Mexico.

LES Soussignés, Représentants de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, et de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, ont l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence qu'ils ont reçu de leurs Gouvernements respectifs l'ordre de lui présenter un ultimatum dans lequel se trouveront exposées leurs justes réclamations.

Des dettes sacrées et déjà reconnues par les Traités n'ont pas été acquittées; la sûreté individuelle de nos compatriotes a été compromise: à un odieux système d'extorsions ont succédé le pillage et le meurtre. Un pareil état de choses devait contraindre les Gouvernements alliés à venir demander au Mexique non seulement des réparations pour le passé, mais aussi des garanties pour l'avenir; mais les Représentants sous-signés, investis de la confiance de leurs Gouvernements, n'ont pas pensé qu'il leur suffirait d'exposer leurs griefs et d'en exiger la réparation immédiate.

Prenant en considération l'état actuel du Mexique, ils ont cru que leur mission pouvait avoir un but plus élevé et une fin plus généreuse.

Trois grandes nations n'ont point formé une puissante alliance uniquement pour venger les outrages dont a pu se rendre coupable vis-à-vis d'elles un peuple soumis lui-même à de cruelles épreuves. Il était plus digne d'elles, en unissant leurs armes, de tendre à ce malheureux peuple une main amie et de chercher à le sauver sans l'humilier. Le Mexique a été en proie à de trop fréquentes convulsions; il est temps que le désordre et l'anarchie fassent place à un état normal fondé sur le respect de la loi et des droits des étrangers comme de ceux des citoyens.

Le peuple Mexicain a une existence qui lui est propre. Il a son histoire et sa nationalité. Les trois nations alliées ne peuvent donc être soupçonnées de vouloir porter atteinte à l'indépendance du Mexique. Le rang qu'elles occupent en Europe, la loyauté dont elles ont toujours fait preuve, doivent les mettre à l'abri d'un pareil soupçon. Ce qu'elles voudraient obtenir c'est qu'un pays aussi richement doué par la Providence que l'a été le Mexique ne laissât point l'instabilité du pouvoir anéantir tant de dons précieux et entraîner fatalement la ruine de la République.

Nous venons ici pour être les témoins et au besoin les protecteurs de la régénération du Mexique. Nous venons assister à son organisation définitive sans vouloir intervenir en aucune façon dans la forme de son gouvernement ni dans son administration intérieure.

C'est au Mexique seul qu'il appartient de juger quelles sont les institutions qui lui conviennent, quelles sont celles qui s'accordent le mieux avec ses besoins et avec la civilisation du dix-neuvième siècle.

Nous pouvons montrer au peuple Mexicain quelle est la route qui le conduira sûrement à la prospérité. Seul il doit, sans intervention étrangère, et en obéissant à ses propres inspirations, s'engager dans cette route. C'est ainsi qu'il établira dans un pays si souvent troublé par les révolutions un ordre de choses stable et permanent. C'est ainsi qu'il trouvera facile l'accomplissement des devoirs internationaux, et qu'il pourra faire régner à l'intérieur l'ordre et la liberté.

Vera Cruz, le 14 Janvier, 1862.

(Signé)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

E. JURIE DE LA
GRAVIERE.

HUGH DUNLOP.

DUBOIS DE SALIGNY.

EL CONDE DE REUS.

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, and of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, have the honour to state to your Excellency that they have received instructions from their respective Governments to present to you an ultimatum in which their just demands will be found to be set forth.

Sacred obligations already recognized by Treaties have not been discharged; the personal safety of our countrymen has been compromised; pillage and murder have succeeded a hateful system of extortion. Such a state of affairs compels the Allied Governments to come to Mexico for the purpose of demanding not only reparation for the past, but also guarantees for the future; but the undersigned Representatives, armed with the confidence of their Governments, have not thought it sufficient only to state their complaints and to require their immediate redress.

Taking into consideration the actual state of Mexico, they have thought that their mission might have a higher and more generous object.

Three great nations have not formed a powerful alliance solely to avenge outrages of which a people themselves exposed to cruel trials have been guilty towards them. It was more worthy of them, while uniting their arms, to offer a friendly hand to this unhappy people, and to endeavour to save without humiliating them. Mexico has been the prey to too frequent convulsions; it is time that disorder and anarchy should give place to a normal state of things founded on respect for the laws, and for the rights of foreigners as well as of citizens.

The Mexican people have an existence of their own; they possess their own history and nationality. The three allied nations cannot, therefore, be suspected of desiring to attack the independence of Mexico: the rank that they occupy in Europe, the loyalty of which they have always given proofs, should place them above such a suspicion. What they wish to secure is, that a country so richly endowed by Providence as Mexico should not allow the instability of power utterly to destroy so many precious gifts, and fatally entail the ruin of the Republic.

We are come here to be witnesses, and if necessary protectors, of the regeneration of Mexico; we come to aid in her settled organization, without wishing to interfere in any way in her form of government, or in her internal administration. It rests with Mexico alone to judge what are the institutions that suit her, and what are those which are best adapted to her own wants and to the civilization of the nineteenth century.

We can point out to the Mexican people the course that will certainly lead them to prosperity. Only they must enter upon this course without foreign intervention, and in obedience to their own inspirations. Thus will they establish a stable and permanent order of things in a country so often harassed by revolution; thus will they render easy the fulfilment of their international duties, and be enabled to cause order and liberty to reign in the interior.

Vera Cruz, January 14, 1862.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

E. JURIE DE LA GRAVIERE.

HUGH DUNLOP.

DUBOIS DE SALIGNY.

EL CONDE DE REUS.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, January 25, 1862.

AT the fifth Conference, which took place this morning, the principal questions brought forward were those mentioned in my despatch of the 16th instant, as having been adjourned for future consideration, namely, the collection of the Custom-house revenues and the appointment of civil authorities.

General Prim informed us that it had been found impossible to collect the duties on merchandize now in the Custom-house; that the merchants, principally German, had positively stated their inability to pay those duties in ready money; and that if we refused to accept their bills, they would leave their goods in bond, and hold us responsible for all losses and damages thereby incurred.

That there was a scarcity of money in Vera Cruz at the present moment could not be doubted, though hardly to the extent set forward by the commercial body; yet it was equally certain that their bills on Mexico would be so much waste paper, as our object was to obtain at once a sufficient sum to defray the actual salaries of the Custom-house officers and cover other local charges and expenses.

As General Prim most truly remarked, this was a difficulty which had been overlooked by our respective Governments, who had imagined that, once Vera Cruz in the possession of the allies, the collection of the revenue would be the simplest thing in the world—a supposition which, theoretically, looked well enough, but practically, and in the actual state of the country, could not be acted upon.

It was evident, however, that we should come to a dead-lock if matters continued as they were, and as the merchants remained obstinate, it was resolved that the matter should be referred to the Governor of the town and his Council, mentioned in my despatch of the 17th instant; our respective Consuls, as part of the Council, being requested to draw up some plan which, from their long residence here, was more likely than any other to offer some solution of this mercantile problem.

Mr. Consul Giffard having, meanwhile, drawn up, at my request, a separate plan for the proper working of the Custom-house, I presented it to my colleagues, who approved of it, and begged it might be transmitted to the Council above alluded to.

As yet nothing definitive has been settled upon these two important points, and I much fear that if the merchants determine upon making a stand, we shall be forced, against our will, to depart from the line of conduct we had laid down—to carry through all our measures in a spirit of moderation and friendship.

The next question discussed was that of the “Ayuntamiento,” or Municipality.

It appeared from General Prim’s statement, that this body, which had been formed by his predecessor, General Gasset, wished to resign.

As such an act at the present moment would greatly increase our embarrassments, it was agreed that we (the Commissioners) should jointly request them to continue in the discharge of their duties.

Like the merchants, however, they continue obstinate, and it remains to be seen what measures will have to be taken either for compelling the old Municipality to act, or for instituting a new one.

We then returned to the subject of the expulsion of the Spaniards, mentioned in my despatch of the 17th instant, and it was resolved that as soon as we received President Juarez’ reply to our “note collective,” we should again address him, and stipulate for their immediate return to Tampico unmolested, and with full liberty to recommence their occupations.

After some further observations from General Prim, relative to the exorbitant prices demanded by the managers of the railway from Vera Cruz to La Tejeria and Medellin, for the transport of mules, baggage, &c., and to the necessity that existed for taking immediate steps so as to ensure the sanitary arrangements of the town being properly carried out, the Conference terminated; and I shall have the honour of laying before your Lordship in a separate despatch a résumé of our sixth meeting.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, January 30, 1862.

DURING the Conference which took place on the 25th instant, a rumour was stated to be prevalent that General Miramon and Staff were shortly expected here, as he had formed a plan for penetrating into the interior of the country, and again raising the standard of revolt, by placing himself at the head of the Reactionary, or old Church party.

On this statement being made, Commodore Dunlop declared that he would arrest him for having robbed the British Legation, if he landed in this town whilst our flag was flying here.

This declaration gave rise to a discussion, the French and Spanish Commissioners objecting to such a proceeding, and M. de Saligny even declaring that, if such a thing was attempted, he should protest against it in the name of his Government.

General Prim was much more mild in his objection to the measure, he only fearing that such a step would alienate the Conservative party, whose assistance we might have to rely on, in case the Liberals now in power refused to treat with us.

On this I remarked that if we did allow Miramon to land here, and thus invade the country with an expedition of his own, we should as certainly utterly disgust the present Government, to whom we were now making overtures of peace and conciliation, for they would never believe we were friendly in our intentions towards them, if we thus allowed a fresh element of strife and discord to be introduced into the country when we might so easily have prevented it.

This argument had its weight with General Prim, but was only half admitted by Admiral de la Gravière, and still opposed by M. de Saligny.

After a long discussion, it was finally settled that if Miramon arrived in the English packet, the Commodore should arrest him if he chose to do so, and if he came in any other vessel, that he was to be ordered not to land, in the name of the Allied Commissioners, whereupon General Prim immediately sent instructions to that effect to the Captain of the Port, who was ordered to keep a look-out on all vessels arriving.

Two days afterwards the English mail-steamer came in, having Miramon and thirty followers on board, amongst whom was the notorious Padre Miranda and other members of the ultra-Church party. None of these people were interfered with; but the Commodore had Miramon arrested, and placed for better security on board Her Majesty's ship "Challenger," there to be kept until the packet's return to the Havana, from whence he came.

It appears that his partizans were waiting for him on the coast with horses and arms, and all else necessary to enable him once more to renew a civil war which has only just died out after a three years' bloody struggle.

The news of his being frustrated in his designs cannot but be productive of the very best results, as the great majority of the nation is Liberal, and violently opposed to the principles which he pretends to support, whilst in reality only thinking of his own personal ambition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, January 30, 1862.

THE English, French, and Spanish officers who were the bearers of our joint note to the President of this Republic, and who left this on the 14th instant, returned here the night before last with his Excellency's reply, which I have the honour herewith to inclose for your Lordship's information.

After stating that Mexico is a great nation, and that its Government requires no foreign assistance to maintain its authority, which is now acknowledged throughout the length and breadth of the Republic, the note goes on to say that, taking into consideration the friendly intentions of the allied Powers, as expressed by their Representatives, the Mexican Government is willing to treat with us by Commissioners, and for that purpose invites us to proceed to Orizaba with a guard of honour composed of 2,000 men, but

hopes that the remainder of the forces may be re-embarked, so as to free the nation from the apprehension of being dictated to by an armed force, &c., &c.

I consider the note, taken as a whole, to be satisfactory; for although the proposal they make for re-embarking the troops is inadmissible, and cannot be listened to, yet the very fact of their allowing 2,000 European troops to penetrate past their mountain-passes, and as far as Orizaba, proves that they would rather treat with than fight us.

By private accounts received from Mexico, I have reason to believe that all the high-sounding phrases the note contains are meant less for us than as a means of preventing the Opposition from accusing the present Administration of giving the country up, bound hand and foot, to an armed intervention.

I believe that General Doblado is fully aware of the gravity of the situation, and is anxious to arrange matters amicably with us if he can only succeed in appeasing, to a certain degree, the violent animosity that is felt throughout the country against the Spaniards. Were it not for the personal character of General Prim, his reputation as a Liberal, and the great tact he has hitherto shown, this difficulty would be found insurmountable, and war to the knife would already have been declared against them.

As soon after the departure of the packet as possible, a suitable answer will be returned to the President's note, and we shall again insist (as a sanitary measure) on the necessity of moving the whole force up to the table-lands of Jalapa and Orizaba (about thirty leagues from here), before the heat sets in at the latter end of next month.

When the troops march up, Commodore Dunlop will accompany them with the battalion of Marines, for the reasons which I have stated in my despatch of the 16th instant, and which he, of course, will enter into more fully in his correspondence with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure in No. 33.

General Doblado to the Allied Commissioners.

(Translation.)

Mexico, January 23, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State of the Mexican Republic, has the honour, by command of the Citizen President of the same, to answer the note dated the 14th instant, which was addressed to him by the Representatives of their Majesties the Queen of Great Britain, the Emperor of the French, and the Queen of Spain, relative to the claims and resolutions of those Powers respecting Mexico.

It is satisfactory for the Government of Mexico to find that the intentions of the allies are so favourable as appears from the above-mentioned note, because it will thus be sufficient to call their attention to the state in which the country now is, in order to make them understand that the support of an armed force is not now necessary either for consolidating the existing Government, or for obtaining justice in the international questions which are at present pending.

It is a fact, by its very notoriety undeniable, that all the States of the Mexican Confederation from Nuevo Leon and Sonora to Yucatan and Chiapas obey the Constitutional Government, and that this obedience is not the effect of force, which belongs entirely to the States, but a consequence of the general will which conquered for itself the reform by means of the Revolution. The truth of this fact is not in any way lessened by the existence of some bands of rebels which have not been able to keep a single village, and remain in the mountains, since they themselves prove, by their impotence, the moral courage of the Administration accepted by the generality of the Mexicans.

Were the country in the situation that it traversed in August 1860, perhaps the armed assistance of the allies would not be repugnant; but now, when the nation has recovered the regularity of its administrative march, this assistance is, indeed, inopportune, and would, probably, give results contrary to those that are sought by the allied nations, since it would disturb the peace which is now being enjoyed, and would excite ambitions which now are smothered by the irresistible action of public opinion.

The Mexican Government does not believe that three great Powers have united in order to come and render sterile, in one day, the heroic efforts that a friendly people has made during three years to follow the path of progress and of moral and material improvements, in which they, as masters, have served to them as a guide and an example. On the contrary, the Government trusts that their Representatives, on seeing the movement of regeneration and full of life that the Government of the Reform has given to

this nation, formerly fettered by prejudices, will return to their country and bear witness to the consummation of the great work of the pacification of Mexico carried out under the principles, properly understood, of liberty and progress. As regards the pending claims of the allied nations, the Mexican Government is disposed to enter into agreements with all and with each of them, as she has the will and the means to satisfy completely their just demands. The Government desires still more—it desires to repair its credit injured by involuntary deficiencies, and is resolved to make every sort of sacrifice so as to prove to the friendly nations that the faithful fulfilment of the engagements that it contracts will for the future be one of the invariable principles which characterize the Liberal Administration.

For this purpose the Representatives of the allied Powers are invited to come to the city of Orizaba, accompanied by a guard of honour of 2,000 men, and on their part the Mexican Government will send to the same point Commissioners duly authorized, so that with calm and with reason they may discuss and conclude the agreements which assure to the allied Powers the satisfaction of their claims, and leave the credit and good name of the High Contracting Parties in a favourable position. With such an object in view, the Government is of opinion that it would be proper for the residue of the force now at Vera Cruz to re-embark, as this would, by its being done in the proper time, prevent the arrangements being objected to by the nation as null, and their rejecting them as wrung from them by means of armed force, and as agreed to without free-will on the part of the Mexican Government. As the latter does not do the allies the injustice to suppose that they have any other view than that which they have set forth in their note of the 14th instant, it believes that they will not feel any difficulty in acceding to this proposition, in which the Government of Mexico has no other view than that of guaranteeing the legal validity of the Treaties which may be signed at Orizaba.

The Undersigned, &c.

Liberty and Reform!

(Signed)

MANUEL DOBLADO.

No. 34.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, January 31, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, herewith, copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Rear-Admiral Maitland, and the contents of which I have communicated to my French and Spanish colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Sir C. Wyke to Rear-Admiral Sir T. Maitland.

Sir,

Vera Cruz, January 31, 1862.

AS there is a possibility that the negotiations in which the Representatives of the three Powers are at present engaged with the Mexican Government may end in a pacific solution of the differences now existing between our respective Governments and that of this Republic, we are unwilling to take possession of any of the Pacific ports until such negotiations shall have terminated.

Under these circumstances, I have the honour to request your Excellency to proceed off that part of the said coast from which you can best communicate with the city of Mexico, whence the British Consul will forward to me any despatch, announcing your arrival, that you may send to his care to be transmitted to this Legation.

Should our negotiations fail in obtaining what we require, I will immediately inform you thereof, and will, at the same time, point out what steps it may then be necessary to take, with a view of carrying out the original intentions of Her Majesty's Government in reference to this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 4.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, January 31, 1862.

ALL accounts I receive, both from public and private sources, prove that General Doblado, who, as your Lordship may remember, was invested with the fullest powers by the late Congress, is using those powers in a manner calculated to centralize the forces of the Government, and to give a death-blow to that Federal system which has hitherto been the bane of the country, and prevented the establishment of a strong and respectable Government.

In pursuance of this object, General Doblado has named General Mendoza Dictator of the State of Puebla, General Ortega of the States of San Luis, Aguascalientes, and Zacatecas, and General Vidaurri of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon. He has also named a new Governor of the Federal district and a new Municipality in the capital.

Doubtless ere long he will have filled other important posts with persons devoted to his policy. The intervention is thus indirectly bearing its fruits, and I trust that we may soon have in this country a strong and intelligent Government, willing to treat with us, and able to turn a deaf ear to the clamours of the mob.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 36.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received March 3.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 3, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Commodore Dunlop, dated the 15th January, reporting his arrival at Vera Cruz with the squadron under his orders, and subsequent proceedings in Mexico.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Challenger," Vera Cruz, January 15, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that having taken command of the squadron off Cape St. Antonio on the 30th ultimo, as reported in my letter of the 31st, I proceeded to this port, where we arrived on the 6th instant, under sail.

On the 9th, Admiral Jurien de la Gravière and his squadron arrived, accompanied by a Spanish steamer bringing Lieutenant-General Prim, the Spanish Commander-in-chief of the expedition to Mexico.

On my arrival here, I found the town completely occupied by the Spanish troops, about 6,000 in all; I, as soon as possible, waited on the Spanish General in temporary command, and requested he would inform me what barracks or buildings were intended for the British force. The General informed me that, in contemplation of the arrival of the British and French troops, he had encamped 3,000 of his men outside the town to make room for them; that the town was much overcrowded, and that he had already 400 men in hospital; but that he had ordered two barracks to be placed at the disposal of the British and French, each building proportioned to the return he had received of the number of troops of each nation.

I found that the Church and Convent of Santo Domingo was the building intended for our men, and, after having inspected it, I ordered a working party of Marines to be sent on shore for the purpose of cleaning it out.

After having done the best that could be done to put the place in order I found it impossible to remove large deposits of filth in a semi-liquid state that had been found in a portion of the quadrangle, without means that we did not possess, and from which

arose such a stench that the whole building was infected by it. I therefore at once decided not to allow the Marines to occupy the building; and having learned from General Prim that he considered it absolutely necessary that an encampment should be found for the Spanish troops at some distance from Vera Cruz, as there was not room enough for them in the town, I determined to keep the men on board until such time as I could find good quarters for them in consequence of the departure of the Spaniards, who must withdraw the greater portion of their men, as it would not be safe for them to encamp only a small force unsupported.

I have now got possession of one of the best buildings in the town, which will accommodate the whole of our men, and they will land and take up their quarters to-morrow if the weather permits.

In consequence of the necessity of finding an encampment for a portion of the Spanish and French troops, in order to free the town from its overcrowded state, which was rapidly increasing the sickness amongst the former, it was agreed upon by General Prim, the Admiral, and myself, that we should make a reconnaissance in force on the Orizaba Road, for which purpose I landed one company of 100 men, and we marched about 3,000 strong, the French having two companies of Zouaves, and one of their brigades of Marine Infantry, the rest of the force being Spanish. At Tejiria we found a Mexican post of 100 Cavalry, who retreated as we advanced, the commanding officer of which having previously sent us a letter stating that he was ordered to hold the post by his General, and that he would do so at all hazards, but was willing, if given time, to communicate with his General, and to ask for orders. We advanced without taking notice of this letter.

At Tejiria (twenty miles from this place) we found what appears an excellent position for an encampment, which being on the railway, supplies can be sent out without difficulty. As the Marines have no tents and are not in any way prepared for encampment or marching into the interior, I was obliged to order them to return to Vera Cruz the next day. The French and Spanish troops have all remained there under canvass.

Two days ago we made another reconnaissance to Medellin (also about fifteen or twenty miles distant), eastward of this; our men returning the next day, and also the French that accompanied us on this occasion. The Spaniards formed an encampment, and have a line of communications with the camp at Tejiria.

The reason I marched a portion of the Marines on these occasions was because both General Prim and the French Admiral were so exceedingly anxious that I should do so, considering that if no British force took part in the movements, the Mexicans would conclude that some disunion existed amongst us. Quite agreeing with my two colleagues in their reasoning, and considering that if I am obliged to march out the Marines for sanitary or other causes, it would not be consistent with our character to do so after the ground had been cleared for us, I at once consented to take part in these movements, both of which were accompanied by the Commanders of the allied forces.

On marching from Vera Cruz, we sent a letter to the General Commanding the Mexican force (said to be 25,000 men, but probably not above 15,000 or 18,000), about fifteen leagues from this, to say that the movement was one undertaken for sanitary reasons, and not with any hostile intention.

I am in great hopes that our men, from their more cleanly habits and the greater care that is taken of them, will be healthy for some weeks at Vera Cruz. Still, as the Spaniards have already 500 men in hospital, I may be disappointed, in which case I have but two paths open to me: one is to re-embark the men, but if sickness has commenced, it is doubtful if this would check it, and, at all events, it would defeat the object which we have in view; the other is to march to some healthy place, where the allied force may be able to hold a position free from the danger of being decimated by pestilence, leaving to the united squadrons the duty of guarding Vera Cruz, in which place we have already set on foot the machinery of a municipal government, and a small force would suffice for a garrison for the town and castle.

Under the pressure of the peculiar position in which I find myself, and with the certainty that, at all events, after the month of March, even with a most favourable season, our men cannot remain here, I have determined to extemporize the means of moving them, and to take upon myself the responsibility of providing them with such tents and other materials as are indispensable for marching, and that cannot be obtained at short notice.

The step we have taken with a view to the regeneration of Mexico is one from which we cannot withdraw until our object is obtained; and, under the most favourable circumstances, we must look forward to retaining a force in the country for some months

after the sickly season has commenced, and, in all probability, for a much longer period. The Spaniards and French look towards an encampment at Jalapa, or some other equally healthy situation in the upper country, called the "tierra templada" by the natives; and there is no doubt they rely with confidence on our acting with them.

I brought forward the proposition that we should take the weight of garrisoning the seaports off their shoulders; but to this they replied, that while their flags were flying at the ports, they must have a force there for its protection, as well as for a guard for their depôts of provisions, and that, therefore, we could not entirely relieve them from keeping a force there.

Their Lordships may rest assured that I will act strictly according to my orders as regards advancing, until such time as I see an imperious necessity for departing from them; and my object in explaining the circumstances in which I am placed at such great length is, that their Lordships may be prepared for the great probability that my position here will be rendered untenable from sickness, at the very first appearance of which I shall move the men to healthier quarters.

At the same time, I trust that their Lordships will be pleased to take into consideration whether it might not be expedient to send me discretionary orders as to advancing with the French and Spaniards, in case circumstances should make an advance necessary. I fear that all the advantage that might otherwise arise from the alliance will be lost, if unity of action is not maintained.

It is not improbable that it may soon become a question for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government whether a larger force may not be required in Mexico.

I have so little time in which to prepare this letter, that I must beg their Lordships to wait the arrival of the mail-packet for a full account of the political steps that we have taken since the allied forces united there; and to permit me to state, in as few words as possible, what has been done.

I found Her Majesty's Minister, Sir Charles Wyke, here, and also the French Minister; and as soon as General Prim and the French Admiral arrived, we had daily meetings for the purpose of determining our future proceedings.

Our first step was to issue a Proclamation to the Mexican people which I have the honour to inclose.*

Our next was to address a letter to the President, setting forth, in moderate and conciliatory but firm language, the objects of the expedition, and the desire of the three nations to assist in the regeneration of Mexico, apart from all interested motives, and the hope that their influence might conduce to the establishment of a permanent order of things.

It was intended to add to this letter the demands the three Governments had upon that of Mexico for wrongs committed upon their respective subjects; but owing to the nature of the claims brought forward by M. Dubois de Saligny, the French Minister, in favour of his countrymen, he and Sir Charles Wyke found it impossible to come to an agreement as to the reclamation to be made, and therefore we considered it best to send off the letter to the President without the reclamation, which must be postponed until instructions arrive from Her Majesty's Government.

Sir Charles Wyke will no doubt by the packet (as he has not time, I believe, to write officially by this opportunity) explain fully his reasons for objecting to the French claims; but I may mention that I entirely agree with his view of the case, and consider that had we agreed to the French claims, we should have committed our Government to giving its support to demands on Mexico that I feel certain, when fairly laid before the Government of the Emperor, will be so greatly modified as to assume an entirely different character from that in which they would have appeared had we permitted them to be sent to the President.

It is with great pleasure that I have the honour to inform their Lordships of the cordial and friendly relations that exist between myself and the Commanders of the French and Spanish forces.

I have only further to add that General Prim's views, with reference to the Mexican question, as far as I can judge, seem most moderate, and quite in accordance with what I know to be intentions of Her Majesty's Government.

* Inclosure in No. 26.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received March 3.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 3, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Earl Russell, a copy of a letter, dated the 30th January, from Commodore Dunlop, inclosing copies of two despatches addressed by the Commodore on the same day to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne respecting the state of affairs in Mexico, and the proceedings of the allied British, French, and Spanish forces in that country; also reporting that he had arrested General Miramon on his arrival at Vera Cruz, and intended to send him back to Havana.

Instructions can be sent to Vera Cruz by the mail of the 15th instant via New York and Havana.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Challenger," Vera Cruz, January 30, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of two letters I have this day addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, K.C.B., Commander-in-chief, reporting proceedings at Vera Cruz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

(Extract.)

"Challenger," at Vera Cruz, January 30, 1862.

MY letter of the 15th instant to the Secretary of the Admiralty, of which a copy was transmitted in my letter to you of the 16th instant, detailing proceedings here to that date, was written in much haste, although at considerable length, in order to take advantage of an unexpected opportunity to Europe, via Havana and Cadiz; I have now the honour to continue the narrative of events up to the present time.

The Marines were landed in excellent order on the 16th instant, and took up their quarters in a building that was used as a hospital by the Mexicans. It accommodates the whole battalion most comfortably, and, being newly built, is clean, airy, and in every way suitable for a barrack.

Excepting that a good many men are suffering from diarrhœa, the men are healthy up to the present time, and they are not more afflicted with that complaint (which hitherto has been of a mild form) than the seamen and Marines afloat. I inclose the Sick Report.

On my first arrival here, I took Lieutenant-Colonel Lowder, commanding the Marine Battalion, with me, and we minutely inspected the quarters for the men at San Juan d'Ulloa, and found that the only places in which they could live are the casemates, which are so very damp that sickness would be sure to ensue very soon, and also they are so dark that it is impossible to conceive more gloomy, unwholesome-looking quarters.

We at once decided that, as a permanent quarter, the Castle was out of the question. It has since been agreed to by the General, the Admiral, and myself, that the Castle shall be held alternately by the forces of the three Powers for fifteen days each, and that it shall be garrisoned from the squadrons.

We find no inconvenience at present from our men mixing with the Spaniards and French; they are on excellent terms with both.

The greater part of the French and Spanish forces are encamped, the former at Tejiria, and the latter at Medellin, as stated in my letter above referred to, only sufficient remaining in Vera Cruz to do their portion of the garrison duty.

In contemplation of the great probability that circumstances will oblige me to advance further into the interior, either to secure the health of the men, or the object

of the expedition in a political point of view, I am employing the resources of the squadron in furnishing a sufficient number of tents, for which we have more than an ample quantity of duck, which makes the best and cheapest tents; and I am also completing for field service a four-gun battery composed of two Armstrong 6-pounders and two howitzers 12-pounders.

I hope to see the battalion very soon in a fit state to take the field if there is a necessity for it.

In order to place Lieutenant-Colonel Lowder in a parallel position with the Spanish and French officers, I have considered it advisable to give him an order to act as Colonel on the Staff in command of the brigade, and I have formed the Marines into a brigade of two battalions; giving an order for Lieutenant-Colonel Lambrick to command the first battalion, and for Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott to act as Lieutenant-Colonel of the left wing. The second battalion will be composed of the Marines who will be landed from the ships of the squadron for the purpose of garrisoning Vera Cruz, provided the force now here move out.

I also found it absolutely necessary to appoint a Staff officer to confer with the French and Spanish Staff on the routine of duty to be assigned to the force of each nation, and the many other Staff questions that daily arise; I therefore have given Brevet-Major Digby, R.M.A., the appointment of "Field Officer in the Staff," and have ordered Lieutenant Heaslop, R.M.A., to take charge of the battery.

The squadron here consists of the ships named in the margin;* the "St. George" I sent to Bermuda, as reported in my letter of the 16th instant, and I shall, in accordance with your orders, send the "Mersey" there also as soon as the "Donegal" joins me.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

(Extract.)

"Challenger," at Vera Cruz, January 30, 1862.

FOR the sake of convenience I have the honour to report the political events that have occurred since my letter of the 16th instant, in a separate despatch from that detailing the naval and military proceedings.

I have the honour to annex a copy of the note addressed to his Excellency the President of the Republic by the Representatives of the three Powers, and a copy of the answer which was received on the 28th instant.†

An officer of superior rank from each nation was selected to convey the letter for the President to the capital. I sent Captain Tatham, of Her Majesty's ship "Phaeton," on this service, as he is acquainted with the Spanish language.

General Uruga, who commands the Mexican forces, sent an escort with the officers charged with the President's letter, and they report that they met with the greatest civility and attention, both on the journey to and from Mexico, as well as while in that city.

The answer to the letter to the President has not yet been considered, but the part of it which refers to the re-embarkation of a portion of the troops, and advancing with only 2,000 men, will certainly not be entertained.

As nothing can be decided before the sailing of the packet relative to the time for the movement of the troops on Orizaba or Jalapa, I can only prepare you for what appears to me the most probable turn that events will take.

Under any circumstances it is quite decided on by the French Admiral and General Prim that the French and Spanish forces shall advance in search of a sanitary position. My own opinion is similar to theirs as regards the utter impossibility of the troops remaining in Vera Cruz for more than a few weeks longer, without suffering fearful ravages from sickness, which would leave the force disorganized and unavailable for any service. Taking this fact into consideration, coupled with the political aspect of affairs, which renders it of immense importance, with a view to the successful issue of the object Her Majesty's Government has in view, that the British force should be present, as well as the French and Spanish, at the proposed Conferences at Orizaba or Jalapa, as may be ultimately decided on, I have, on mature consultation with Sir Charles Wyke, who is entirely of the same opinion as myself as to the necessity for the presence of the British force, determined to advance the Marine battalion as soon as it is decided that an advance is expedient.

* "Challenger," "Mersey," "Phaeton," "Jascn," "Ariadne," "Sans Pareil," "Desperate," "Barracouta," "Plover."

† Inclosure 4 in No. 30; and Inclosure in No. 33.

I believe my orders authorize me to take this step under the circumstances I have defined, and even if they did not, it appears to me that, being fully alive to the necessity for the advance, both for political and sanitary reasons, I should be unfit for the post I have the honour to hold if I hesitated to take the responsibility on myself, and by such hesitation defeated the object I am sent here to assist in achieving; and, at the same time, exposed the men under my orders to the certainty of great loss from disease. As I have already had the honour to inform you, I am striving by every means to provide the battalion with all that is required for marching, and I have reason to hope that I shall succeed in doing so by the time the march is necessary. I do not anticipate much difficulty in procuring the means of transport from the resources of the country, though doubtless the cost will be considerable.

When the Marine Battalion leaves Vera Cruz it has been arranged that a sufficient force is to be landed to garrison the town, from the three allied squadrons. We consider that 100 men from each squadron will be sufficient, and these men can be so frequently changed that we hope by that means to keep the garrison free from disease.

Having heard a rumour that there was a probability of General Miramon, the ex-President of Mexico, taking advantage of the allies being in possession of Vera Cruz to land here, and watch his opportunity for stealing into the interior, and placing himself at the head of the shattered remains of the Reactionary or Church Party, Sir Charles Wyke and myself took into consideration what course we should pursue in the event of this rumour having foundation.

The case presents itself in two points of view:

1st. With reference to General Miramon's responsibility to Great Britain for having forcibly broken into the British Legation in Mexico, and plundered it of a large sum of money, which seemed to us to preclude the possibility of his ever being allowed to take sanctuary under the British flag in Mexico, except, perhaps, as an act of humanity.

2nd. With reference to British responsibility, in common with that of France and Spain, to the Mexican nation, which appeared to us to prevent the three flags now flying at Vera Cruz from honourably protecting the author of the atrocious massacres at Tacubaya, until such time as he could find an opportunity of rejoining his associates, and once more plunging the country into all the misery of a civil war, which has been only just extinguished by the defeat and flight of this very man.

It seemed to us that the Proclamation to the Mexican people, which the Representatives of the Three Powers had just signed, as well as their letter to the President, could only appear to the Mexicans a bitter and unworthy sarcasm, if the allies permitted General Miramon and his adherents to shelter themselves in Vera Cruz until they found a convenient moment for renewing the civil war.

Such being our sentiments, we determined to bring the subject forward at the next conference, which was done accordingly. After a long discussion our French and Spanish colleagues, so far from being brought to take our view of the question, were of opinion that Miramon should be allowed to land, and left quite free to take his own course.

Both Sir Charles Wyke and myself felt, that letting loose Miramon on the country from Vera Cruz, would so completely destroy all confidence in the good intentions of the allies, as well as entirely preclude all hope of their doing anything towards the purification and welfare of Mexico, that we determined to do our utmost to avert such a calamity. With this view, and without giving the question a political turn, we continued to press upon our colleagues, that in consideration of the outrage Miramon had committed on the British flag, and, through it, upon the flag of all foreign nations, he should not be permitted to land. But being unsuccessful in our endeavours to bring them to take our view of the question, and upon the French Minister declaring that he would protest, in the name of the Emperor, against any interference with General Miramon, after he had set foot in Vera Cruz, where the French flag was flying, Sir Charles Wyke and myself announced our determination to have him arrested if he came here in a British packet, to which our colleagues had no objection to offer; and it was finally agreed that, in consequence of the insult offered by Miramon to the British flag, and the feeling this gave rise to in the minds of the British Representatives, his presence at Vera Cruz would disturb the complete harmony which had hitherto existed between them and their colleagues, and that, therefore, General Prim should be requested to write to the Captain-General of Cuba, in the name of the Commissioners, to prevent Miramon, who was at Havana when the last intelligence was received, from embarking for Vera Cruz.

Two days after this meeting the British packet arrived with General Miramon and thirty of his associates on board; in accordance with my previous orders to that effect, he was immediately arrested by a party under Captain Kennedy, of Her Majesty's ship

"Challenger," and taken on board Her Majesty's ship "Jason," where he is now a prisoner.

In the course of a few days he will be sent to Havana in Her Majesty's ship "Mersey," and I will instruct the Captain, upon landing him there, to request the Captain-General to give orders that General Prim's letter, written by desire of the Representatives of the three allied Powers, may be strictly acted upon.

Whether Miramon may ultimately make his way back to Mexico or not, the step now taken for his expulsion cannot fail to have the best effect, in giving the great majority of Mexicans confidence in our good intentions towards the Republic.

Had Miramon been permitted to take shelter in Vera Cruz, and afterwards, when a convenient time arrived, to proceed to join his partisans, nothing would have convinced the people of this country that the allies were not supporting the Church party, and the probable result would have been an interruption of all negotiations between them and the Liberal party which must have led to hostilities, and thus the allies would have been thrown into a kind of alliance with the Reactionists. I cannot but feel that the position into which that state of things would have thrown Great Britain, as the ally and supporter of a fanatical and bigoted minority, would have been the very reverse of that which our great nation ought to occupy.

We have come here to assist the Mexicans to inaugurate a new era, as well as to demand our just rights, and these objects can only be gained by keeping ourselves free from all party feeling, as well as avoiding by every means giving reasonable grounds for suspicion that we wish to dictate to Mexico by whom she is to be governed.

I have no reason to believe that our relations with our colleagues are at all less cordial in consequence of what has occurred with reference to General Miramon than they were before, and I am sure everything will be done by Sir Charles Wyke, as well as by myself, that is compatible with our sense of duty in order to preserve that cordiality and good feeling which is so essential to the success of the expedition.

P.S.—I shall transmit a copy of this letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

No. 38.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 3, 1862.

IN transmitting to your Excellency Sir C. Wyke's despatch of the 19th of January last, I request you to call M. Thouvenel's serious attention to its contents.

The demand of 12,000,000 dollars (about 2,500,000*l.* sterling) formed without any account on a rough guess, and the demand of the full and immediate execution of a contract for the payment of bonds to the amount of 15,000,000 dollars in return for 750,000 dollars advanced to a nominal Government just in the act of falling, appear to Her Majesty's Government to be items of the ultimatum of which the Government of the Emperor cannot approve.

But Her Majesty's Government would be glad to learn the views of the French Government before they reply to Sir C. Wyke.

No. 39.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 3, 1862.

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this day's date, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of further despatches, as marked in the margin,* from Sir C. Wyke, respecting the proceedings of the Allied Commissioners in Mexico, and various matters for arrangement with the Mexican Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) **RUSSELL.**

* Nos. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35.

No. 40.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 4, 1862.

THE Proclamation, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 16th of January, is open to the objections which I have stated in my recent despatches.

Her Majesty's Government do not wish to have even the appearance of interference in the internal affairs of Mexico. If the Mexicans can establish a strong Central Government, capable of maintaining order at home, and of protecting foreign merchants, the moral support of the British Government will be willingly given to Mexico, whatever the particular form of the Mexican Government may be.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 41.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 4, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government agree with you in thinking that, with the exception of the absurd proposal of the re-embarkation of the allied forces, the answer of Señor Doblado, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 30th of January, is tolerably satisfactory.

The meeting of the Commissioners at Orizaba, and the assembly of the whole force of the allies at Jalapa and Orizaba, will, Her Majesty's Government hope, afford means of arriving at an amicable conclusion of these difficult affairs.

If Señor Doblado has the energy for which credit is given him, he will form a Government whose strength will maintain order and punish adequately the miscreants who have robbed and murdered with impunity the subjects of the Sovereigns of Great Britain, France, and Spain.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 42.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received May 5.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 4, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter dated the 27th of January, from Lieutenant Slaughter, Admiralty Agent on board the contract steamer "Avon," to Captain Patey, with copies of its inclosures, relative to the passengers embarked in that vessel at Havana, for conveyance to Mexico, and the arrest of ex-President Miramon at Vera Cruz.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

*Lieutenant Slaughter to Captain Patey.**Royal Mail Steam-packet "Avon," Vera Cruz.**January 27, 1862.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that on the arrival of this ship at Vera Cruz at 5.30 P.M. of this day's date, boats with seamen and marines, armed, under the command of Captain Kennedy, of Her Majesty's ship "Challenger," boarded this ship and placed sentinels to prevent any person leaving the ship until General Miramon, ex-President of Mexico, was made prisoner, which was immediately done, and he was removed to Her Majesty's ship "Challenger," lying at this port, the sentries were withdrawn, and the passengers allowed to disembark.

I called on Commodore Dunlop, at his quarters on shore, and gave him my letter, stating that General Miramon was a passenger on board, a copy of which letter I have inclosed to you, and explained the intention of the Commander of the packet and myself, with reference to General Miramon, which was not to have allowed any communication with the shore until I had seen Commodore Dunlop on the subject.

Commodore Dunlop informed me that he had received information that General Miramon would be on board the packet; therefore made the above arrangement.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES JNO. SLAUGHTER,

Lieutenant R.N., Naval Agent.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Lieutenant Slaughter to Commodore Dunlop.

Royal Mail Steam-packet "Avon," entering Vera Cruz Harbour,

January 27, 1862.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report for your information that the ex-President of Mexico, Miguel Miramon, is now on board this ship. He embarked at Havana, on 22nd instant, under the name of M. Fernandez, which name is on the Havana passport.

Several of the passengers who embarked at the same time and place have pointed him out to me to be the ex-President, Miguel Miramon; and, considering England's present position with Mexico, I have deemed it my duty to place you in possession of the above information. The inclosed is a list of the passengers embarked at Havana. Those marked with an asterisk are natives of Mexico by their passport.

I have also to acquaint you, that while at Havana I received a written order from Captain Egerton, of Her Majesty's ship "St. George," to open the mail-bags addressed to the senior naval officer at Vera Cruz, which bags were opened by me, and all letters, &c., for Her Majesty's ship "St. George" were taken out. The bag was resealed, and brought on for the senior naval officer at Vera Cruz.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES JNO. SLAUGHTER,

Lieutenant, R.N., Naval Agent.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

*List of Passengers embarked on board the Royal Mail Steam-Packet "Avon," at Havana,
January 22, 1862.*

MM. Jousalles,* H. R. P. Meusos,* T. Bueno,* Ladiens, M. Fernandez *alias* Miguel Miramon, ex-President of Mexico,* C. Miramon, brother to the above,* M. Garcia,* R. Miranda,* T. Miranda,* Rereguyman,* R. Arago,* Querara,* Caballero,* Gual,* Querara* and two ladies, Vallerti,* Borrondiaro and wife, Choro,* Kesco,* Viesco,* Rodrigues,* Esquino,* Garcia,* Comas, and Lolano.

[Names with (*) against them are natives of Mexico by their passports.]

No. 43.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received March 5.)

My Lord,

Washington, February 17, 1862.

MR. SEWARD told me, the day before yesterday, that he had just received a despatch from Mr. Corwin, the United States' Minister in Mexico, who wrote that he had been in communication with the Representatives of Great Britain, France, and Spain; that he felt sure the British terms would be agreed to by Mexico; and that he expected the speedy re-establishment of friendly relations between that country and all three of the allied Powers.

Mr. Seward said that Mr. Corwin stated further that, if affairs should take this happy turn, he should not scruple, without waiting for further instructions from his Government, to sign a Treaty, in virtue of which the United States would assist Mexico in satisfying the pecuniary demands of the allies.

Mr. Seward went on to tell me that he was preparing a despatch to be forwarded to Mr. Corwin on the 20th instant. He proposed to explain to Mr. Corwin how it had happened that the Senate had not yet come to any decision upon the draft of a Treaty which that Minister had sent home for approval. Any detailed instructions which could now be sent to Mr. Corwin would, Mr. Seward said, probably hardly arrive in time to be acted upon. His proposal to conclude a Treaty for the purpose which he had indicated would, therefore, simply be approved. A hope would be expressed that the most favourable terms would be obtained for the United States. Mr. Corwin would be enjoined to communicate unreservedly with the Representatives of the three Powers. He would be reminded that this Government had made known beforehand to those Powers its desire to assist Mexico in satisfying her foreign creditors; and that the concurrence of those Powers was essential to the success of the plan. Mr. Seward said that, when his despatch was finished and had been approved by the President, he would read it to me.

Mr. Seward did not tell me why the Senate had not yet taken up the draft of a Treaty sent by Mr. Corwin. I presume, however, that the sentiments which I mentioned to your Lordship in my despatch of the 3rd instant are still entertained by the principal Senators.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 44.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received March 5.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 4, 1862.

ON the receipt, this morning, of your Lordship's despatches of yesterday's date, inclosing copies of the various despatches which you have received lately from Sir Charles Wyke, I called upon M. Thouvenel with the intention of carrying out your Lordship's instructions by bringing to his notice the observations of Her Majesty's Government on the nature and amount of some of the claims made on the Mexican Government by M. Dubois de Saligny.

M. Thouvenel requested me to delay the communication I had to make to him till to-morrow. He had only had time, he said, to take a very hasty look through the voluminous despatches which had reached him from Mexico. He had seen enough, however, to be convinced of the confusion which reigned amongst the allied Commissioners, and of the necessity of remedying it, and he should be ready by to-morrow to enter more fully upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 45.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 6, 1862.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, and its inclosures, relative to the passengers embarked in the "Avon," at Havana, for conveyance to Mexico, and to the arrest of General Miramon at Vera Cruz.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 46.

Earl Cowley to Lord J. Russell.—(Received March 7.)

(Extract.)

Paris, March 6, 1862.

I CALLED on M. Thouvenel yesterday by appointment, and after giving his Excellency a general summary of the intelligence which had reached Her Majesty's Government from Mexico, I communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's despatch of the 3rd instant, commenting on the claims put forward by M. Dubois de Saligny on the Mexican Government.

M. Thouvenel first of all observed that he did not comprehend the letter and spirit of the Convention of the 31st October in the same light as your Lordship. There were, he said, claims of two kinds with which each Government had to deal in treating with the Government of Mexico—those which had been already recognized, and those arising out of outrages which had not been atoned for, the amount of which had yet to be settled. The former of these he alone considered as comprised within the meaning of the Convention, and as binding on the common support of the three Powers which signed it. With regard to the second category, the case was different. There each Government was the sole judge of its own demands. These demands were not, in his opinion, susceptible of any examination by that Government's allies. If, indeed, they were such as those allies felt they could not conscientiously countenance, no support could be expected from them, and the Government which put them forward must take its own means for enforcing them. Any division of action would no doubt be regrettable, but he saw no help for it, and in such case each Government must be left to conclude its own Treaty with the Mexican Government, the general principle of obtaining no special advantages being adhered to.

The Spanish Government, M. Thouvenel continued, equally objected to submit its claims to the decision of France and Great Britain. His Excellency read me a despatch from M. Barrot, recounting a conversation which he had had with M. Calderon Collantes, in the course of which that Minister appears to have expressed disapprobation of the proceedings of General Prim in refusing to endorse the French ultimatum.

On my observing to M. Thouvenel that he surely could not approve a demand for 12,000,000 dollars, formed without any account on a rough guess, and another demand for the payment of 15,000,000 dollars in return for an advance of 750,000 dollars, his Excellency admitted that the amount of the first of these two sums had struck him as very large. It was impossible for him, however, to control it. He had originally desired M. Dubois de Saligny to fix a sum which, in the conscientious opinion of that gentleman, would constitute a fair demand. His Excellency proceeded to read me M. de Saligny's justification of it, which simply amounts to this: that he is convinced that the sum asked for will not cover the amount of claims existing in the Chanceries of the French Legation at Mexico, and of the different French Consulates within the Mexican dominions. With this assurance before him, his Excellency could do no more than recommend the strictest examination of every claim brought forward. His Excellency took this occasion to say that he could not consent to the appointment of a Mixed Commission, as had been suggested at one of the Conferences at Vera Cruz, to arbitrate upon the demands of the three Governments; but he could not be averse to a proposal, emanating from M. de Saligny, that a French Commission, consisting of the French Secretary of Legation, the French Consul at Vera Cruz, and a French merchant, should decide upon the merits of French claimants. If, after inquiry, it should be found that the aggregate amount of claims admitted by that Commission was less than 12,000,000 dollars, of course that sum would be diminished in proportion.

I asked M. Thouvenel whether I was to understand that the Imperial Government would be satisfied with an acceptance by the Mexican Government of the award of the Commission, after the examination of the several French claims, without specifying any particular sum previously; but even this slight modification was objected to by his Excellency.

With regard to the Jecker claim, M. Thouvenel said that there were a number of French subjects who had advanced money to Jecker on bonds issued by him on the strength of his contract with the Mexican Government. It was not, therefore, a question of the repayment only of the 750,000 dollars for the service of the Mexican Government, but of the repayment of bonds for which value had been given.

I asked M. Thouvenel why M. de Saligny should not pursue the course adopted by Sir Charles Wyke in his project of ultimatum, and be satisfied with an engagement on the part of the Mexican Government that all just claims not yet sent in should be paid. It must be admitted that M. Thouvenel's answer admits with difficulty of a reply. What reliance, he asked, could be placed in any engagements of the kind after the experience which the allies had had of Mexican faith? But, I observed, you must in some way or other trust a Mexican Government, for you do not suppose that the country is rich enough to pay off at once all the demands already made upon it, to say nothing of those which you have in store. Do you mean to remain there until every farthing shall have been paid?

Our conversation terminated by M. Thouvenel observing, that while the Governments were discussing at home, events were marching in Mexico, and that it was very difficult to send instructions relating to matters which had occurred two months before the comments on them could be read.

It is M. Thouvenel's intention to write to M. de Flahault in the sense in which he has spoken to me, and to transmit to him, for communication to your Lordship, the espatches of M. de Saligny and of Admiral Jurien de la Gravière.

No. 47.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received March 7.)

(Extract.)

Paris, March 6, 1862.

M. THOUVENEL read to me, yesterday, some letters which had been addressed by the Prussian Minister in Mexico to M. Dubois de Saligny, after the latter had left the capital. They represent the great desire of the respectable inhabitants of Mexico to see a French force occupy the town, and the necessity of such a step being taken if any permanent good is to be effected by the presence of the allied forces in the country.

M. de Wagner states further, that the idea of establishing a monarchy under a foreign Prince is rapidly gaining ground, but he does not seem to be aware of the scheme of offering the throne to the Archduke Maximilian.

No. 48.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 8, 1862.

YOUR Excellency's despatch of the 5th instant gives rise to very serious reflections.

It is hardly possible that claims so excessive as that of 12,000,000 dollars in the lump, without an account, and that of 15,000,000 of dollars for 750,000 dollars actually received, can have been put forward with an expectation that they would be complied with.

The result in contemplation is one of so grave a character that Her Majesty's Government will take some days to deliberate upon the course to be pursued. I shall, therefore, not touch upon the views put forth by M. Thouvenel in the present despatch. I content myself with saying that Her Majesty's Government will examine carefully the substance of the despatches which M. de Flahault is desired to communicate to me.

No. 49.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 10, 1862.

I HAVE laid before Earl Russell your letter of the 3rd instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Milne, dated the 30th of January, and reporting his proceedings up to that date.

The Lords of the Admiralty will have seen by the copies of Earl Russell's instructions to Sir Charles Wyke inclosed in my letter of the 1st instant, and which were written before the arrival of the mail from Mexico, that Sir Charles Wyke and Commodore Dunlop were, on the information of their proceedings which had then indirectly reached Her Majesty's Government, held to have greatly erred in assigning interference in the internal affairs of Mexico as the main object of the Tripartite Convention, rather than redress of wrongs done by Mexico, which was the sole inducement of Her Majesty's Government to enter into the Convention.

Her Majesty's Government regret to find in the despatches now received from Sir Charles Wyke and Commodore Dunlop, that they are impressed with the belief that the "regeneration" of Mexico is the primary object to which the efforts of the allied forces are to be directed; a belief wholly unwarranted by the terms of the Tripartite Convention, and by the instructions given to Her Majesty's servants for carrying them out.

Adverting, however, more particularly to the measures taken with respect to General Miramon, as reported by Commodore Dunlop in his despatch of the 30th of January, Lord Russell desires me to say that Her Majesty's Government consider that, for political reasons, it was quite necessary to prevent General Miramon from landing at Vera Cruz, and from making a city then in possession of the allies a basis of operations for the Reactionary party.

Commodore Dunlop does not, however, sufficiently explain why the restriction was applied to General Miramon alone and not also to his numerous followers, whose presence in Mexico, though deprived of their chief, could scarcely fail to be injurious to the cause of order.

Neither is it explained why, as it was intended to send General Miramon back to Havana in a ship of war, a delay was suffered to take place before his departure, during which he was detained as a prisoner on board another of Her Majesty's ships at Vera Cruz.

Lord Russell desires me to say, and to suggest that it should be pointed out to Commodore Dunlop, that it is far from the wish of Her Majesty's Government to kindle a civil war in Mexico, and consequently the protection of the British flag, and the permission to land from under it, were very properly withheld from General Miramon, whose arrival in Mexico would in all probability have given rise to it.

But Commodore Dunlop must not suppose that Her Majesty's Government have undertaken to inaugurate a new era or to attempt the regeneration of Mexico. The object of Her Majesty's Government is definite, and is limited to the protection of British persons and British property.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 50.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 11, 1862.

I HAD a long conversation with Count Flahault yesterday, turning chiefly on the affairs of Mexico.

His Excellency brought me several despatches from M. Thouvenel, M. Dubois de Saligny, and Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, relative to the dissensions between the Commissioners of the Allies.

M. Thouvenel lays it down as a rule that the allies could not be the judges of each other's claims; that from the moment a Commissioner gave in his demand on the Mexican Government, the other Commissioners were bound by the Convention to support that demand, whatever it might be.

I said I could not go that extreme length; I was ready to concur so far that the allies could not examine each other's claims without great loss of time, and, after all, they would not be able to judge of the validity of each particular demand; but that where a claim was excessive and exorbitant on the face of it, it was the duty of Her Majesty's Commissioner to give no support to such a demand. I proceeded to say that the demand of 12,000,000 dollars in the lump, without any account, and the demand of 15,000,000 of bonds in return for a fraudulent loan of 750,000 dollars to a falling and bankrupt Government, were of this nature.

Count Flahault admitted that he thought M. Dubois de Saligny might have himself examined the French claims, and arrived at a total deduced from the addition of the separate accounts and not from his own rough conjecture. He said, however, that M. Thouvenel now proposed to have such an examination by means of a Commission. He read to me part of a despatch from M. Dubois de Saligny, in which that gentleman states that he offered to give up the Jecker claim of 15,000,000 of bonds, if Sir Charles Wyke would consent to support the general claim of 12,000,000 dollars.

I said that I thought if a Commission to examine and report upon the French claims were appointed, composed, as I understood M. Thouvenel wished, entirely of French officers and merchants, and the French Commissioners were to adopt the report of that Commission, and if the Jecker claim were entirely abandoned, Her Majesty's Government could support in such case the French claims; but I had understood from your Lordship's despatch,* and also from M. Thouvenel's despatch, which I had just read, that M. Thouvenel would be content if each Power were to support its own claims, provided all adhered to the Article of the Convention abjuring the pursuit of any conquest of territory or any special advantage.

M. de Flahault assured me this was not the meaning of M. Thouvenel. He deprecated such a result, and only mentioned it as the last resource left, if the Governments could not agree to employ common means for a common object.

* No. 46.

I desired M. de Flahault to ask M. Thouvenel what instructions had been given to the French Admiral in the Pacific.

These explanations and remarks having been interchanged between us, I stated to M. de Flahault that Her Majesty's Government would state to Sir Charles Wyke that, provided a French Commission were appointed to examine French claims, Her Majesty's Government would instruct him to support the conclusions of that Commission. That it was likewise to be understood that the Jecker claim was abandoned. That what we could not agree to, and must keep clear of, was the putting forward of claims merely for the sake of making a quarrel. That was a course we could not adopt ourselves, nor defend in others.

I informed the Count de Flahault also of the orders we had given, and were about to give, to embark the Marines on the approach of the sickly season, on the first convenient opportunity. I showed him, from the papers printed for Parliament, that these instructions were not new, but were a continuance of our previous determinations. Your Excellency shall be furnished shortly with the instruction to Sir Charles Wyke.

No. 51.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 11, 1862.

I HAVE to acquaint you that Rear-Admiral Daeres will receive instructions from the Admiralty, by this mail, to proceed to Vera Cruz, and relieve Commodore Dunlop in his duties in that quarter, including those of Her Majesty's Commissioner, in which the latter officer has been associated with you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 52.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 11, 1862.

THE letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty of which a copy is inclosed for your information and guidance,* will fully explain to you the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the refusal to allow General Miramon to land, and to the erroneous opinion expressed by Commodore Dunlop in his despatches, that it was the main object of his employment to promote the regeneration of Mexico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 53.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received March 13.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 12, 1862.

WITH reference to your letter of the 10th instant, stating the views taken by Her Majesty's Government of the proceedings of Sir Charles Wyke and Commodore Dunlop with regard to Mexico, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Earl Russell, a copy of a despatch addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, directing him either himself to proceed to Vera Cruz or to send Rear-Admiral Daeres thither, to carry out the instructions issued for the guidance of the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's ships in the Gulf of Mexico, and directing the Vice-Admiral to keep a naval force there for the protection of British persons and property, and to send the Royal Marines to Bermuda.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMANE.

Inclosure in No. 53.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

Sir,

Admiralty, March 11, 1862.

COMMODORE DUNLOP having forwarded to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty copies of the two despatches he addressed to you on the 30th January last respecting the state of affairs in Mexico, and the proceedings of the allied British, French, and Spanish forces in that country; also reporting that he had caused General Miramon to be arrested on his arrival at Vera Cruz, and intended to send him back to Havana;—I am commanded to acquaint you that the contents of the two said despatches have been communicated to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I now inclose, for your information and guidance, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, dated the 10th instant,* in which Earl Russell suggests that it should be pointed out to Commodore Dunlop that it is far from the wish of Her Majesty's Government to kindle a civil war in Mexico, and, consequently, the protection of the British flag, and the permission to land from under it, were very properly withheld from General Miramon, whose arrival in Mexico would, in all probability, have given rise to such civil war; but that the Commodore must not suppose that Her Majesty's Government have undertaken to inaugurate a new era, or to attempt the regeneration of Mexico, the object of Her Majesty's Government being definite and limited to the protection of British persons and property.

I am to refer you to the Admiralty letters conveying instructions for the re-embarkation of the Royal Marines landed in Mexico at the first convenient opportunity; and my Lords desire that you will either yourself proceed to Vera Cruz or send Rear-Admiral Dacres thither to carry out these instructions, and all others which have been issued for the guidance of the officer commanding the Mexican expedition, observing that a naval force is to be kept in the Gulf of Mexico for the protection of British persons and property, and that the Royal Marines are to be brought to Bermuda and there to await further orders.

I also inclose, for your information, a copy of the printed correspondence respecting affairs in Mexico which has been presented to Parliament.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

No. 54.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received March 15.)

(Extract.)

Paris, March 14, 1862.

WHILE with M. Thouvenel yesterday I mentioned to his Excellency that I was glad to find, by a despatch which I had received from your Lordship, that Her Majesty's Government, in consequence of the abandonment by the Imperial Government of the Jecker claim on Mexico, and of the institution of a Commission to examine into the amount of the other French claims still undecided, had been enabled to instruct Sir Charles Wyke to support the result of that examination.

M. Thouvenel said that neither in his conversations with me, nor in his instructions to M. de Flahault, had he ever consented to abandon the Jecker claim, nor did it appear from the despatches which he had received from that Ambassador that he understood the claim to be abandoned. His Excellency went on to say that he could not take upon himself to make any such declaration; that he was not sufficiently cognizant of the terms of the Jecker contract, which he had never seen, to form any opinion about it; that he did not know how far French interests were engaged in it; and therefore he must leave the whole matter to the appreciation of M. Dubois de Saligny, in whose probity he had entire confidence. All he could say was, as he had already written to M. de Saligny, that he had no intention of pressing unjust claims, and that if M. Jecker had made an imprudent contract, he must not look to France to support it.

I said that wherever the misunderstanding might be, it was quite clear to me that Sir Charles Wyke's support of the undecided French claims would depend upon the institution of a Commission to examine into those claims, and upon the abandonment of the Jecker claim.

M. Thouvenel replied that he was quite ready to consent to the establishment of a Commission; and that, as M. Dubois de Saligny had already, at one of the first Conferences, offered to reserve the Jecker claim, if the other claims were supported by his colleagues, he would probably be still ready to do so, but he (M. Thouvenel) could give him no orders upon the subject.

I then asked whether his Excellency would not write to M. de Saligny to the following effect:—That Her Majesty's Government had consented to support the result of the examination of the French undecided claims by a Commission, to be nominated as had been suggested by that Minister, provided the Jecker claim was abandoned; and that as M. de Saligny had already offered to exclude that claim from his ultimatum, provided the other claims were admitted into it, he would probably be ready to follow a similar course now.

His Excellency promised to send these instructions.

No. 55.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received March 15.)

(Extract.)

Paris, March 14, 1862.

M. THOUVENEL manifested great sorrow to me yesterday on learning from M. de Flahault that orders had been sent to Vera Cruz to re-embark all the Marines before the sickly season should set in. His Excellency expressed great hope, if Her Majesty's marine force should have advanced as far as Jalapa, where the country is healthy, they might be allowed to remain.

I said that his Excellency would recollect that, from the very first moment of planning the expedition, Her Majesty's Government had declared that they could not furnish a land force, and that the Marines on board the squadron could not remain on shore during the unhealthy months. M. Thouvenel admitted this, but still expressed the hope that if they had advanced into the country they might not be recalled.

No. 56.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 15, 1862.

I LOST no time, on the receipt of your despatch of the 19th of January, in communicating with the Government of the Emperor of the French on the nature and extent of the pecuniary claims on Mexico which it appeared that M. Dubois de Saligny had proposed to make; and the correspondence with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, of which I inclose copies,* will show you what has passed in this matter between his Excellency and the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on the one hand, and between the French Ambassador at this Court and myself on the other.

Her Majesty's Government very much regret that a difference of opinion on this material question should have occurred to interrupt uniformity of action on the part of the Representatives of the three Powers; but it is due to M. Dubois de Saligny to say, that there is every reason to suppose that in the course which he pursued he had no reason to doubt that he was acting in strict conformity with the wishes and intentions of the French Government.

Her Majesty's Government would, indeed, very much regret any personal feelings on either side being allowed to interrupt the harmony which should prevail between you.

In regard to the main point referred to in your despatch of the 19th January, namely, the extent and character of the French claims, you will see that the French Government are prepared to enter into an examination, by means of French Agents, of the purely French claims.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that this proposal may be accepted. It was never contemplated by them that the Commissioners of the allies should constitute themselves into a Mixed Commission for determining on the merits of their respective claims before they were pressed on the Mexican Government; such a process would have led to interminable delay, and would probably have resulted in serious disagreement between the Commissioners.

* Nos. 38, 46, 48, and 50.

But it is certainly desirable that there should be no rivalry or contest as between the Commissioners, or one or more of them, and the Mexican Government, in regard to the intrinsic validity of the respective claims; and that, on the contrary, the several Commissioners should generally support the demands of each other, when those demands appear fair and reasonable.

You were right, under the circumstances, in declining to advocate the demands of your French colleague as first enunciated, for those demands were confessedly made at random, and on very insufficient data. This defect will, however, be now remedied by the preliminary inquiry which is to be made into the French claims, and which Her Majesty's Government will not doubt will be fairly conducted; and therefore Her Majesty's Government do not hesitate to instruct you to support the amended French demands, subject, of course, to reciprocity on the part of your French colleague in regard to the English demands.

I have further to instruct you, if the Jecker claim is put forward by M. Dubois de Saligny, not to give it any support.

I was in hopes that the French Government had definitively abandoned it, but I find, from the despatch from Lord Cowley, of which I inclose a copy,* that such is not the case.

No. 57.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received March 15.)

My Lord,

Washington, February 28, 1862.

MR. SEWARD told me yesterday, that the Senate had in effect declined to agree to the plan of the Cabinet for aiding Mexico to satisfy the pecuniary claims of Great Britain, France, and Spain. They had, he said, in answer to the President's request for their advice, declared that they could not advise the conclusion of any Treaty which would impose on the United States the obligation to pay the interest on the debt of Mexico, or which would require the concurrence of any foreign Powers. This resolution amounted, Mr. Seward observed, to a refusal on the part of the Senate to concur either in the draft of a Treaty which Mr. Corwin had sent home, or in the instructions which had been sent to him from the State Department.

Mr. Seward went on to say that he should at once communicate the resolution of the Senate to Mr. Corwin for his guidance. He did not, however, consider it absolutely certain that, if Mr. Corwin should have concluded a Treaty before he received notice of the resolution, the Senate would refuse to ratify it.

Mr. Seward proceeded to tell me that the President had desired to send General Scott on a special mission to Mexico, and had submitted his name to the Senate for confirmation. The General had, however, declined the appointment, on the plea that his health did not admit of his travelling except by sea or by railroad, and the President had withdrawn the nomination.

I asked Mr. Seward whether I might communicate the information he had given me to Mexico. He said he should be much obliged to me if I would do so. He desired to be perfectly frank and open with the three allied Powers on Mexican affairs. He hoped they were equally so with him. He saw in the newspapers rumours of an intention to establish a monarchy in Mexico, to place the Archduke Maximilian on the throne, and to interfere in various ways in the domestic affairs of the country; but he did not receive any information on the subject from the United States' Ministers in London, Paris, and Madrid.

I assured Mr. Seward that Her Majesty's Government were entirely averse to any interference in the internal affairs of Mexico, and that nothing could be further from their wishes than to impose upon the Mexican nation any Government not of its own choice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received March 19.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 18, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an extract from a letter, dated the 22nd February, from Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Maitland, with copy of one addressed by him on the same day to Sir Charles Wyke, pointing out that the Rear-Admiral had then been waiting at Panamá since the 30th of January, for a communication from Sir Charles Wyke as to the operations to be undertaken on the West Coast of Mexico, and that the movements of the British and French squadrons in the Pacific depend upon such communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Rear-Admiral Sir T. Maitland to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

"Bacchante," at Taboga, February 22, 1862.

I REQUEST that you will acquaint their Lordships that I have as yet received no communication whatever from Sir C. Wyke or Sir Alexander Milne, at which I am much surprised, as this port can be communicated with from Vera Cruz by steamer in about seven days. The account of the allied forces having landed at Vera Cruz reached this on the 10th instant. I forwarded copies of my letters to Sir C. Wyke; and, in compliance with their Lordships' instructions, will remain here until I hear from Sir Charles Wyke, as I do not deem it advisable to proceed to the Coast of Mexico without some specific object in view, there being great difficulty on that coast in keeping ships of war supplied with provisions and coals, which might be nearly expended before I knew what operations were to be undertaken.

2. The "Termagant" arrived here on the 9th instant from Mazatlan, and the United States' steam-ship "Saranac" on the same day from Acapulco, leaving the "Lancaster" at the latter port.

3. The "Tartar" left this for Acapulco on 11th instant, to replace the "Termagant," for the protection of British subjects and those of our allies. The French Admiral has despatched the "Bayonnaise" to replace the "Galathée" at Acapulco, under similar orders.

4. I have not yet heard of the arrival of the "Cameleon" on the Coast of Mexico, which vessel, with the "Mutine," will remain under the orders of Captain Hayes, of the "Tartar."

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Rear-Admiral Sir T. Maitland to Sir C. Wyke.

(Extract.)

"Bacchante," at Taboga Island, Panamá, February 22, 1862.

WITH reference to my letter of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to acquaint you that I arrived here on the 30th January, and have now waited nearly a month in daily expectation of receiving a communication from you on the subject of the operations to be undertaken on the West Coast of Mexico, but none has yet arrived, although this port can be communicated with from Vera Cruz in seven days; and I understand that Sir A. Milne had been directed to make arrangements for my receiving your despatches.

Accounts, *vid* New York, were received here on 10th instant that the allied forces were landed at Vera Cruz about 7th January.

It is of the utmost importance that I should receive an early communication from you, as the movements of the whole of the ships under my command, as well as those of the French squadron, depend upon such a communication (Admiral Larrien being directed to act in concert). At present the French Admiral and myself are quite at a loss what orders to give, or what measures to take, relative to operations on this side of Mexico; and, consequently, the action of the whole of the allied force is, in a measure, suspended, all the ships, as far as possible, having been withdrawn from other parts of the station for this service.

At present there are three British ships of war and one French on the West Coast of Mexico, but they have orders not to act hostilely, except in self-defence, and to protect the lives and property of the allied Powers. Two of the ships have been directed to remain at Acapulco, if the guns have been withdrawn from the fort, and the Mexicans do not attempt to molest them.

Before I leave this for the Coast of Mexico, it is necessary to arrange for the conveyance of provisions and coals for the ships on that coast; and, as this will entail a very heavy expense on the British Government, I am anxious to have some idea of what operations are intended, to enable me to make the required arrangements, which take some time to carry out.

I think it right to tell you that the season for operations on the West Coast of Mexico is fast advancing. It will be nearly a month before we can reach that coast from this anchorage, and after the end of May the wet and unhealthy season commences, and except Acapulco (which is very unhealthy in the wet season), there is no secure port for large ships.

The ports on this side of Mexico may be taken possession of by the ships, but they cannot be held without a military force, if the Mexicans are determined to resist.

No. 59.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received March 19.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 18, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Maitland, dated the 23rd February, reporting his intention to proceed to Acapulco, in consequence of the receipt of a despatch from Sir Charles Wyke, of which a copy is also inclosed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. G. ROMAINÉ.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Rear-Admiral Sir T. Maitland to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Bacchante," at Taboga, February 23, 1862.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I request you will inform their Lordships that I have just received a despatch from Sir Charles Wyke, a copy of which I inclose; and that in compliance with the request therein contained, I shall immediately proceed off Acapulco (with the "Clio"), that being the nearest port from which communications may be forwarded to the city of Mexico.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MAITLAND.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Sir C. Wyke to Rear-Admiral Sir T. Maitland.

Sir,

Vera Cruz, January 31, 1862.

AS there is a possibility that the negotiations in which the Representatives of the three Powers are at present engaged with the Mexican Government may end in a pacific solution of the differences now existing between our respective Governments and that of this Republic, we are unwilling to take possession of any of the Pacific ports until such negotiations shall have terminated.

Under these circumstances, I have the honour to request your Excellency to proceed off that part of the said coast from which you can best communicate with the city of Mexico, whence the British Consul will forward to me any despatch announcing your arrival that you may send to his care, to be transmitted to this Legation.

Should our negotiations fail in obtaining what we require, I will immediately inform you thereof, and will, at the same time, point out what steps it may then be necessary to

take with a view of carrying out the original intentions of Her Majesty's Government in reference to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 60.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received March 19.)

My Lord, *Washington, March 3, 1862.*

MR. SEWARD told me this morning that, wishing to be perfectly frank with the three allied Powers, he had to-day written a despatch to the United States' Ministers in London, Paris, and Madrid, on the affairs of Mexico, to be communicated to the Governments to which they were accredited.

Mr. Seward said that he had stated to those Ministers that, although no official communication on the subject had been made to this Government, there could no longer be any doubt that the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico, and the placing a foreign Prince on the throne in that country, were objects seriously contemplated in some quarters. The President confided in the assurances of the allies that their armed intervention in Mexico was directed solely to the redress of their own grievances, and would not lead to any interference on their part in the internal affairs of the country. The President was, moreover, informed that the negotiations for the establishment of royalty had not been carried on either in London, Paris, or Madrid, but at other places, and exclusively by Mexican exiles. He was assured that each of the three Powers disclaimed all idea of introducing a Monarchical Government into Mexico against the will of the Mexican people, or of imposing any individual Sovereign upon them. The President thought it, nevertheless, desirable that the view taken by the United States of the matter should be made known to the three Powers. That view was not taken without a considerable knowledge of the feelings of the inhabitants of this continent. The President could not think that a Monarchy which, though not imposed by foreign force, was established in the presence of foreign armies in the country, and of foreign fleets on the coast, would possess any stability. He thought that the prospect of stability would be very much diminished if the person selected as Sovereign should be not of Mexican birth, but a Prince of an European reigning family. Such a Monarchy could only be supported by European aid. This would lead to constant interference, on the part of Europe, in Mexico; it would not improbably lead to disputes between European Powers themselves concerning that country, and would produce a state of things in the immediate neighbourhood of the United States, prejudicial to the interests, and uncongenial with the feelings, of the American people.

Mr. Seward told me, that having thus stated the views of the President, he had directed the three United States' Ministers to caution the Governments to which they are respectively accredited against supposing that the refusal of the Senate to sanction the plan of the Cabinet for giving pecuniary aid to Mexico, indicated any discordance either between the different branches of the Government or between the Government and the people; all would be unanimous if the question were put as one between the United States and foreign Powers.

I believe the Cabinet were taken by surprise by the decision of the Senate. The Committee of Foreign Relations unanimously recommended three Resolutions:—1st, to approve of Mr. Seward's original instructions to Mr. Corwin to conclude a Treaty in virtue of which the United States should advance money on account of the foreign debt of Mexico, and should take as security a mortgage on the mines and public lands of Lower California, Sonora, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa; 2nd, to disapprove the draft of a Treaty sent by Mr. Corwin, which did not specify the purpose to which the money advanced to Mexico was to be applied; 3rd, to approve the conclusion of a Treaty which should aid Mexico in satisfying the pecuniary demands of the allies, provided the allies concurred, and provided that there were no conditions onerous to Mexico, or likely to lead to a dismemberment of Mexican territory. The Senate, however, as I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch of the 28th ultimo, rejected the recommendation of the Committee, and declined to advise the President to conclude any Treaty which would impose on the United States the obligation to pay the interest on the debt of Mexico, or which would require the concurrence of foreign Powers.

The Senate very naturally think that there are already more than sufficient demands on the pecuniary resources of the country, and that it is better to stand aloof from

interference in Mexican affairs, and from negotiations with Europe on the subject, at a moment when intestine troubles render it impossible to interfere with effect.

I believe that the sentiments of the Senate are shared by the public at large; that the allied expedition against Mexico is extremely unpalatable to the American people, and that the establishment of monarchy in that country would be regarded by them as extremely offensive; but, nevertheless, that it is felt that the intervention of the United States should be postponed until it can be effectual.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 61.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 20, 1862.*
I HAVE laid before Earl Russell your letter of the 18th instant, and its inclosure from Rear-Admiral Maitland, in which he points out that he had been waiting for nearly a month at Panamá in expectation of hearing from Sir C. Wyke.

I am to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in reply, that Sir C. Wyke could not send instructions to Rear-Admiral Maitland until it was ascertained whether the attitude of the Mexican Government would be hostile or pacific.

It appears from telegrams in the newspapers that no hostilities had taken place on the side of Vera Cruz so late as the 21st of February.

It is to be feared that if negotiations are broken off, the allies, both on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, will be involved in hostilities at the commencement or in the middle of the unhealthy season. Rear-Admiral Maitland should, therefore, be instructed not to hold Acapulco, or Mazatlan, or San Blas in a season when the health of his crews might be endangered by such occupation, and that in the event of hostilities between the allies and Mexico, he is to confine himself during the sickly season to such measures of blockade, and protection of the trade of Great Britain, France, and Spain, as he may find practicable in concert with the French Admiral.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 62.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 25, 1862.*
I HAVE laid before Earl Russell your letter of the 12th instant, inclosing a copy of instructions which have been addressed to Vice-Admiral Milne with regard to the affairs of Mexico; and I am to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in reply that Lord Russell concurs in those instructions. His Lordship would, however, suggest that the protection of the persons and property of British subjects, under the Convention of the 31st of October last, should be specially recommended to Sir A. Milne.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 63.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 26, 1862.*
THE Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at this Court has complained to me of the conduct pursued by Commodore Dunlop in sending away General Miramon from Vera Cruz without concert with his colleagues.

I explained to him how unjustifiable it would have been of the allies to cover with the protection of their flag a person who sought that protection with a view of raising a civil war in Mexico.

M. Conte did not dispute the grounds of the act; he wished only it had been undertaken in concert.

I agreed with him on this point, and promised that Sir C. Wyke should be instructed in any future case of a similar nature to consult the Commissioners of the allied forces.

But on referring to Sir C. Wyke's despatch on the subject I find that at a Conference held on the 25th of January, Commodore Dunlop brought the subject before the allied Commissioners and Commanders, and stated his intention of arresting General Miramon. A warm discussion seems to have ensued, but in the end, according to Sir C. Wyke's report, the argument he (Sir Charles) had urged against allowing Miramon to land "had its weight with General Prim," though it was not admitted by Admiral de la Gravière, and still less by M. de Saligny.

"After a long discussion," Sir C. Wyke continues, "it was finally settled that if Miramon arrived in the English packet, the Commodore should arrest him if he chose to do so; and if he came in any other vessel, that he was to be ordered, in the name of the allied Commissioners, not to land, whereupon General Prim immediately sent instructions to that effect to the Captain of the Port, who was ordered to keep a look-out on all vessels arriving.

"Two days afterwards the English mail-steamer came in, having Miramon and thirty followers on board, amongst whom was the notorious Padre Miranda and other members of the Ultra Church Party. None of these people were interfered with, but the Commodore had Miramon arrested and placed for better security on board Her Majesty's ship 'Challenger,' there to be kept until the packets return to the Havana, from whence he came.

"It appears that his partizans were waiting for him on the coast, with horses and arms and all else necessary to enable him to renew a civil war which has only just died out, after a three years' bloody struggle."

It thus appears that the concert so much desired did take place, although I had forgotten these circumstances when the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me.

It is very desirable that Mexican refugees intending to raise the standard of civil war should not receive countenance or protection in Mexico under the flag of the allies.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 64.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information and guidance, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid,* giving the substance of a conversation which has passed between the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires and myself relative to the course pursued by Commodore Dunlop with regard to General Miramon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 65.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

OUR sixth Conference took place on the 2nd instant, when a Report was presented to us by the Consuls of the three Powers, who, as I have already stated, had been instructed to confer together with a view of deciding what sum it would be necessary to levy on the duties, for the payment of the Custom-house officials since the arrival of the allied forces at this port. The expense thus incurred has hitherto been defrayed out of General Prim's military chest, as the Spaniards on their arrival here found the Custom-house deserted by the Mexicans, and were consequently obliged to fill the vacancies with

Vera Cruz, February 6, 1862.

their own countrymen, who, from the language spoken here, are the fittest persons to hold such appointments.

The Report, which I have herewith the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information, was approved of by us, and, consequently, 20 per cent. of the duties will for the present be set aside for the purpose indicated.

The Consuls are now deliberating on the best means to be adopted for securing a complete supervision of the receipts of the Custom-house, by the nomination of English and French interventors, who will set aside and duly secure the surplus revenue, which is hereafter to be divided according to the respective rights of the three Powers, as agreed on by their Commissioners.

The next subject which occupied the attention of the Conference was the nature of the note we should send in reply to that of the Mexican Government dated the 23rd ultimo, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship of the 30th of last month.

General Prim and Admiral de la Gravière having each presented the draft of a reply, both of which were discussed in detail, the Admiral's was finally adopted, and I was requested to forward to Mexico, by one of the Legation couriers, the note, copy of which I have herewith the honour to transmit to your Lordship.

The amount of sickness now prevailing amongst the allied troops here renders it absolutely necessary to move them up to the higher lands at the time specified, as that sickness will greatly increase when the hot weather sets in at the end of this month.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Report of the Allied Consuls relative to the Payment of the Custom-house Officials at Vera Cruz.

SUR l'indication faite hier, et dont connaissance a été donnée en temps utile à M. le Vice-Consul d'Angleterre, se sont réunis le Mardi vingt-huit Janvier, mil huit cent soixante-deux, à huit heures du soir, en la salle capitulaire de l'Ayuntamiento, M. le Colonel Ramon Menduïña, investi des fonctions de Gouverneur de la ville de Vera Cruz; M. Jules Doazan, Consul de France; M. Balbino Cortes, Consul d'Espagne; M. Eneas Giffard, Vice-Consul d'Angleterre; M. George Flaquer, Administrateur de la Douane; M. Oscar Colleau, Chancelier du Consulat de France.

Avant de procéder à l'examen de la question à résoudre, M. Colleau a, sur la demande de M. le Colonel Menduïña, donné lecture du procès-verbal de la précédente séance afin de mettre M. le Vice-Consul d'Angleterre au courant de la question à traiter.

Conformément à l'invitation qui avait été adressée hier à M. l'Administrateur de la Douane, ce dernier a déposé sur le bureau divers documents devant servir à établir le chiffre des dépenses déjà faites et celles à faire mensuellement pour l'administration de la douane, et celui approximatif des droits qui pourraient être dûs jusqu'à la fin du mois pour les marchandises n'entrant pas en dépôt dans les magasins de la douane.

Après avoir examiné ces documents et les avoir discutés, la Commission composée de M. le Gouverneur, Président sans voix délibérative; M. le Consul de France, M. le Consul d'Espagne, M. le Vice-Consul d'Angleterre, tous trois ayant voix délibérative; M. l'Administrateur de la Douane, ayant voix seulement consultative; et M. Colleau, Secrétaire;

Prenant en considération l'état précaire du commerce de la place de Vera Cruz;

Considérant d'un autre côté l'urgente nécessité de faire face aux diverses dépenses d'administration;

Vu l'impossibilité de fixer dès à présent et d'une manière exacte le chiffre de ces dépenses, lequel sera arrêté postérieurement et lors que de nouveaux renseignements nécessaires et qui ont été demandés auront été fournis, et sans qu'avant cette fixation il puisse être fait aucun paiement;

Adoptant pour base provisoire un état de dépenses dressé avec la plus stricte économie, et admettant la somme de 44,500 piastres environ pour le montant des droits qui pourront être dûs jusqu'à la fin du mois courant sur les marchandises remises directement aux intéressés;

Ayant délibéré, émet l'avis que 20 pour cent de ces droits peuvent être demandés dès à présent pour faire face aux dépenses d'administration faites et à

faire jusqu'à la fin du présent mois de Janvier, lesquels 20 pour cent ne seraient exigibles qu'à partir du deux Février prochain en numéraire et au comptant.

(Signé)

RAMON MENDUINA.

JULES DOAZAN.

E. M. GIFFARD.

BALBINO CORTES.

JORGE FLAQUER.

Le Secrétaire, OSCAR COLLEAU.

(Translation.)

IN accordance with the notification given yesterday, and which was communicated in good time to the British Vice-Consul, Colonel Ramon Menduina, invested with the functions of the Government of Vera Cruz; M. Jules Doazan, Consul for France; M. Balbino Cortes, Consul for Spain; Mr. Eneas Giffard, Vice-Consul for England; M. George Flaquer, Administrator of Customs; M. Oscar Colleau, Chancellor of the French Consulate,—met on Monday, the 28th of January, 1862, at 8 o'clock in the evening, in the Capitulary Hall of the Ayuntamiento.

Before proceeding to the examination of the question at issue, M. Colleau, at the request of Colonel Menduina, read the *procès-verbal* of the preceding sitting, in order to make the British Vice-Consul conversant with the question to be discussed.

In conformity with the invitation which was addressed yesterday to the Administrator of Customs, the latter laid on the table several documents to show the amount of the expenses already incurred, and those to be incurred, monthly for the administration of the Customs, and the approximate amount of Customs dues which might be due up to the end of the month for goods not entering the dépôt of the Custom-house.

After having examined and discussed these documents, the Commission, composed of the Governor, President with no voice in the debate; the French Consul, the Spanish Consul, and the English Vice-Consul, as deliberative members; the Administrator of Customs, only as Referee: and M. Colleau, as Secretary:

Taking into consideration the precarious state of the commerce of Vera Cruz;

Considering, on the other hand, the urgent necessity of meeting the various expenses of the Administration;

Seeing the impossibility of fixing at present and in an exact manner the amount of these expenses, which amount will be fixed later when the further information which is necessary, and which has been requested, has been furnished, and that before that amount is fixed, it is impossible to make any payment;

Adopting as a provisional basis a state of expenses arranged with the greatest economy, and accepting the sum of 44,500 piastres as about the amount of dues which may be due up to the end of the present month on goods remitted directly to the interested persons;—

Having deliberated, announce that 20 per cent. of these dues may be demanded from the present time to meet the expenses of administration incurred and to be incurred up to the end of the present month of January, which 20 per cent. is not to be demanded till after the 2nd of February next, to be paid in cash and in ready money.

(Signed)

RAMON MENDUINA.

JULES DOAZAN.

E. M. GIFFARD.

BALBINO CORTES.

JORGE FLAQUER.

The Secretary, OSCAR COLLEAU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

The Allied Commissioners to General Doblado.

Vera Cruz, le 2 Février, 1862.

LES Soussignés, Représentants de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, et de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, en réponse à la note de son Excellence le Ministre des Relations et de l'Intérieur, ont l'honneur de lui exposer, que venus au Mexique pour y remplir une mission civilisatrice, ils ont conçu l'espoir et éprouvent le plus vif désir d'accomplir cette mission sans verser une goutte de sang Mexicain. Ils croiraient, cependant, manquer à tous leurs devoirs envers

leurs Gouvernements et envers leurs pays s'ils ne s'occupaient d'assurer le plus tôt possible un campement salubre à leurs troupes. En conséquence, ils ont l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de son Excellence le Ministre des Relations la nécessité où se trouveront les armées alliées vers le milieu du mois de Février de se mettre en marche pour Orizaba et pour Jalapa, où les Représentants soussignés espèrent qu'il leur sera fait un accueil sincèrement amical.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Signé). C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.
E. JURIEN.
D. DE SALIGNY.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

(Translation.)

Vera Cruz, February 2, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, His Majesty the Emperor of the French, and Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, in answer to the note of his Excellency the Minister for Foreign and Home Affairs, have the honour to state to him that having come to Mexico to fulfil a mission of civilization, they have hoped, and have the strongest wish, to accomplish that mission without spilling one drop of Mexican blood. They would, however, think themselves wanting in their duty to their respective Governments and their country if they did not endeavour to secure as soon as possible a healthy encampment for their troops. Consequently, they have the honour to inform his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Relations of the necessity the allied armies will be in, towards the middle of the month of February, of marching to Orizaba and Jalapa, where the undersigned Representatives hope they will meet with a sincerely amicable reception.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.
E. JURIEN.
D. DE SALIGNY.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

No. 66.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord;

Vera Cruz, February 12, 1862.

IN my despatch to your Lordship of the 6th instant, I had the honour to inclose, for your information, copy of a note addressed by my colleagues and myself, on the 2nd of the month, to General Doblado, the Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I now transmit copy of his answer to that communication, together with our reply thereto, by which correspondence your Lordship will perceive that the hopes we had entertained of arriving at some satisfactory arrangement with this Government are daily growing fainter; for, if General Doblado refuses to come to the proposed meeting, or should the result of it prove unsatisfactory, then nothing can avert, on the advance of the allied troops, the commencement of hostilities, which we have done everything in our power to prevent.

At the seventh Conference, which took place on the 9th instant, Commodore Dunlop and myself had some difficulty in persuading our colleagues to try the last chance for a pacific solution of this question, which is offered by the proposed meeting between Señor Doblado and General Prim, as they were inclined to cease all further correspondence with the Mexican Government, and then drive the native troops back by a simultaneous advance on the towns of Jalapa and Orizaba, situated on a parallel line at about thirty leagues in the interior of the country.

Should this movement eventually take place, and prove successful, the intention of General Prim and Admiral Jurien de la Gravière is, I believe, to push on to Mexico, and there endeavour, by raising a party in their favour, either to dictate terms to the present Government or to get another established more likely to meet their views.

From the nature of the instructions I have up to the present moment received from your Lordship, I do not feel justified in sanctioning the advance of the Marines further

into the interior than the towns above mentioned, as being situated on the first ridge of table-land where the men will be removed from the pestilential atmosphere and climate of the coast.

As a sanitary measure, therefore, this advance of the allied troops cannot be postponed beyond the end of this month; but there is a vast difference between going as far as Orizaba, and trying to penetrate with a small force sixty leagues further, which is the distance up to the capital.

As the battalion of Marines is totally unprovided with either tents or the means of transporting their heavy baggage, Commodore Dunlop is now endeavouring to remedy the deficiency, so as to enable them to move forward at the same time as the French and Spanish troops.

Should affairs take a hostile turn, as I fear they now will, the allied Governments will find themselves engaged in a very serious undertaking, requiring a considerable augmentation of the land forces they now have here; for the hatred entertained towards the Spanish is so great that if blood is once spilled the nation will probably rise to a man against them, and offer a resistance by a guerilla warfare, such as would never have been called forth against any other foe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 66.

General Doblado to the Allied Commissioners.

(Translation.)

Mexico, February 6, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Minister of Foreign Affairs and of State of the Mexican Republic, has the honour to answer the note which their Excellencies the Commissioners of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, and of the Queen of Spain, addressed him from Vera Cruz on the 2nd instant, and which was received this evening, in which they announce to him the necessity of changing their positions on sanitary grounds.

As the Government of the Republic does not know what may be the mission which brings to Mexico the Commissioners of the allied Powers, inasmuch as up to the present time they have only announced friendly but indefinite promises, whose real object nobody unravels, it cannot permit the advance of the invading forces, unless there are settled with clearness and precision general bases which may make known the intentions of the allies, and relative to which negotiations may be entered into later on, with the caution due to the important interests which are to be discussed.

The Citizen President instructs me to add to their Excellencies, by way of further explanation, that if their Excellencies send a Commissioner quickly to Cordova to discuss with another of the Government the above-mentioned bases before the middle of the present month of February, the order will be given to allow the advance of those forces to the points which may be agreed upon; since, the said preliminaries established, the Government can, without compromising the national independence, grant a permission which now would be considered treason.

The Undersigned, &c.

Liberty and Reform!

(Signed) MANUEL DOBLADO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 66.

The Allied Commissioners to General Doblado.

Vera Cruz, le 9 Février, 1862.

LES Soussignés, Représentants de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, et de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, ont l'honneur d'accuser réception à son Excellence le Ministre des Relations et de l'Intérieur de la République Mexicaine de la note qui leur a été adressée par son Excellence en date du 6 Février.

La détermination des Représentants ne saurait être modifiée. Les troupes alliées se mettront en marche vers le milieu du mois de Février.

Les intentions des Hautes Puissances ont été déjà exposées avec une clarté

suffisante. Cependant, désireux de tenter un dernier effort pour prévenir un conflit qu'ils regretteraient sincèrement, les Représentants soussignés croient de leur devoir d'inviter son Excellence le Ministre des Relations Extérieures à venir s'entendre en personne avec M. le Comte de Reus, qui lui donnera en leur nom toutes les explications nécessaires et de nature à dissiper des doutes injurieux pour la loyauté des Hautes Puissances signataires de la Convention du 31 Octobre, 1861.

M. le Comte de Reus se rendra en conséquence le 18 Février, à 11 heures du matin, sur un point choisi à égale distance de la Tejeria et de la Soledad, au Rancho de la Purga. Les Représentants espèrent que M. le Ministre des Relations Extérieures pourra se présenter à ce rendezvous avec une garde d'honneur de 50 cavaliers et de 50 fantassins. M. le Comte de Reus sera accompagné d'une escorte semblable.

Si la santé de M. le Général Doblado ou toute autre cause imprévue ne lui permettait pas de quitter Mexico, les Représentants désirent que le Général veuille bien se faire suppléer par un des Ministres du Gouvernement Mexicain muni de pleins pouvoirs nécessaires pour recevoir les explications de M. le Comte de Reus et donner l'ordre de n'opposer aucun obstacle à la marche des troupes alliées, si ces explications ont paru satisfaisantes.

Il demeure bien entendu que si le 18 Février il n'est point arrivé à Vera Cruz de réponse déclinant la conférence proposée à M. le Général Doblado par les Représentants des Hautes Puissances, M. le Comte de Reus se trouvera au rendezvous indiqué.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Signé)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.
JURIEN DE LA GRAVIERE.
DUBOIS DE SALIGNY.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

(Translation.)

Vera Cruz, February 9, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, and of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign and Home Affairs of the Mexican Republic, addressed to them by his Excellency on the 6th of February.

The decision of the Representatives cannot be changed. The allied troops will march inland towards the middle of the month of February.

The intentions of the High Powers have already been set forth with sufficient clearness. Nevertheless, the undersigned Representatives, desirous of making a final effort to prevent a conflict which they would deeply regret, think it right to invite his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs to an interview with M. le Comte de Reus, who will give him in their name all the explanations which may be necessary, and which may tend to disperse the injurious doubts of the good faith of the High Powers who signed the Convention of October 31, 1861.

M. le Comte de Reus will consequently go on the 18th of February, at 11 o'clock in the morning, to a spot chosen at an equal distance from Tejeria and Soledad, at Rancho de la Purga. The Representatives hope that the Minister for Foreign Affairs will be able to attend at this rendezvous with a guard of honour of fifty horsemen and fifty foot. The Comte de Reus will be accompanied by a similar escort.

If the health of General Doblado or any other unforeseen cause prevents him from leaving Mexico, the Representatives hope that the General will substitute in his place one of the Ministers of the Mexican Government, with full power to receive the explanations of the Comte de Reus, and to give orders that there should be no opposition to the march of the allied troops, provided those explanations have seemed sufficient.

It is understood that if by the 18th of February no answer has arrived at Vera Cruz, declining the Conference proposed by the Representatives to General Doblado, the Comte de Reus will attend at the rendezvous mentioned.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.
JURIEN DE LA GRAVIERE.
DUBOIS DE SALIGNY.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, February 16, 1862.

OUR eighth Conference took place on the 10th instant, when General Prim announced to us that he had just received from General Zaragoza, commanding the Mexican forces in this neighbourhood, a despatch addressed to "the General-in-chief commanding the allied forces invading Mexico."

On reading this communication, translation of which I herewith transmit for your Lordship's information, it was found to be uncourteous and aggressive in its tone, and we therefore resolved that the three Commanders should reply to it by a terse rejoinder to the effect that the allied Plenipotentiaries had, on the day before, proposed a meeting to the Mexican Government between Señor Doblado and General Prim, as their representative, which meeting, if agreed to as proposed, was to take place on the 18th instant, at a place called Rancho de la Purga, situated half-way between the outposts of the allied forces and the Mexican troops. Translation of this communication I have likewise the honour to inclose, as well as of another which we addressed to the Mexican Government on the 11th instant, stating that our first impulse was to chastise the insolence of General Zaragoza; but that, unwilling to lose the last chance of coming to an amicable understanding with them, we had determined to wait for their reply to our invitation, as well as to ascertain whether, under existing circumstances, they could rely sufficiently on the subordination of General Zaragoza as to be sure that he would not make any attempt contrary to the orders of the Supreme Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 67.

General Zaragoza to the General-in-chief of the Allied Forces.

(Translation.)

General-in-chief,

Head-Quarters, Soledad, February 10, 1862.

UP to the present time the forces of the allied Powers invading Mexico have been permitted to extend their operations beyond the town of Vera Cruz. To continue to remain a passive spectator of these new insults would be indecorous for my country, and unworthy a Mexican General. I therefore inform the General-in-chief of the said forces that he must keep them in their present positions, which are the Tejeria, Medellin, Paso del Toro, and San Juan Loma de Piedra, and not advance them any further. Should this not be done I shall consider hostilities broken out, and war declared on his side; in which event I shall fulfil the sacred duty which the laws of my country impose on me, as General-in-chief of a corps d'armée destined for the defence of the East.

Accept, &c.

Liberty and Reform!

(Signed) ZARAGOZA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 67.

The Allied Commanders to General Zaragoza.

(Translation.)

Vera Cruz, February 10, 1862.

THE Generals of the allied troops have received the uncourteous communication of General Zaragoza. It is written in an aggressive tone that nothing justifies, and on that account they abstain from answering it until they know the determination of the Government of the Republic relative to the last note which the Representatives of the allied Powers have had the honour to address to them, dated yesterday.

General Zaragoza will act as he may deem fit, and on him will fall the responsibility of his acts.

The Representatives of the Allied Powers in the said note proposed to the Government of the Republic a Conference between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the General-in-chief of the Spanish troops, which, should it be accepted, is to take place on the 18th at 11 in the morning, in the "Rancho de la Purga," with an escort of honour of 50 Infantry and 50 Horse; but after the aggressive language of the General of the Army of the

East, the Generals of the allied troops desire to know whether the said Conference can take place or not with the proposed escorts of honour.

Receive, &c.

(Signed)

HUGH DUNLOP.
JURIEN DE LA GRAVIERE.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 67.

The Allied Commissioners to General Doblado.

Vera Cruz, le 11 Février, 1862.

LES Soussignés, Représentants des Puissances alliées, ont l'honneur de transmettre à son Excellence le Ministre des Relations Extérieures de la République Mexicaine, copie de l'étrange communication faite par le Général Zaragoza aux Commandants-en-chef des forces Anglaises, Françaises, et Espagnoles.

La forme de cette communication a paru d'autant plus surprenante aux Soussignés que leurs troupes n'ont pas fait un mouvement pour franchir les limites antérieurement convenues. S'ils avaient suivi leur première impulsion, le Général Zaragoza aurait sur le champ reçu le châtiment mérité par son insolence et gratuite provocation : mais, persistant dans leur désir d'éviter au Mexique des désastres d'une lutte dont l'issue ne peut être douteuse, ils ont préféré attendre encore la réponse du Général Doblado à la dernière note qui lui a été adressée. Ci-jointe sous le No. 2 copie de la réponse adressée au Général Zaragoza.

En présence de cet incident le Général Doblado devra décider si la Conférence proposée par les Soussignés dans leur note du 9 courant doit avoir lieu. Son Excellence aura également à leur faire connaître si, dans ce cas, le Gouvernement Mexicain peut assez compter sur la subordination du Général Zaragoza, pour se porter garant que cet officier ne commettra pas un attentat contraire aux ordres du Gouvernement Suprême.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Signé)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.
JURIEN DE LA GRAVIERE.
DUBOIS DE SALIGNY.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

(Translation.)

Vera Cruz, February 11, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Representatives of the allied Powers, have the honour to transmit to his Excellency the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Mexican Republic, a copy of the strange communication made by General Zaragoza to the Commanders-in-chief of the British, French, and Spanish forces.

The form of this communication has appeared so much the more surprising to the Undersigned, that their troops have made no movement towards passing the limits originally agreed upon. Had they obeyed their first impulse, General Zaragoza would have met, on the spot, with the chastisement he merited for his insolence and gratuitous provocation : but persisting in their desire to avert disasters from Mexico in a struggle the issue of which cannot be doubted, they preferred again awaiting the reply of General Doblado to the last note which has been addressed to him. A copy of the reply which has been addressed to General Zaragoza is annexed, under No. 2.

With regard to this incident, it is for General Doblado to decide whether the Conference proposed by the Undersigned in their note of the 9th instant should take place. It will be equally for his Excellency to inform them whether, in such case, the Mexican Government can sufficiently reckon on the subordination of General Zaragoza, to guarantee that that officer will not attempt anything contrary to the orders of the Supreme Government.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.
JURIEN DE LA GRAVIERE.
DUBOIS DE SALIGNY.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, February 17, 1862.

OUR ninth Conference, which took place on the 14th instant, opened by my informing the Commissioners that the King of Italy was about to send out here an expedition, with a view of sustaining the claims of his subjects against the Mexican Government.

A conversation then ensued as to what would probably take place at the meeting between General Prim and Señor Doblado; and Admiral Jurien de la Gravière proposed, in the event of said meeting failing to produce the desired result, that we should issue a Proclamation to those Mexicans who do not doubt in the good intentions of the allies. The draft of this document having been read out to the Commissioners for their consideration, was then laid upon the table.

A petition was next referred to us from some members of the commercial body here, complaining of the manner in which the 20 per cent. of Custom-house duties now collected for defraying the expenses of that establishment was levied. This petition it was then decided should be passed to the Administrative Commission, in order that they might report to us thereon.

The Conference was terminated by our taking into consideration a project for the civil administration in the town of Vera Cruz, presented by the Commission of Consuls, presided over by the Governor of the town, which project was returned to said Commission, with a view of their adopting some alterations we suggested, in order that it might again be submitted to us in its amended form, for our final approbation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 69.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, February 17, 1862.

THE tenth Conference was held on the 15th instant, to read two letters dated the 13th, from General Doblado, Minister for Foreign Affairs, which a special courier had just brought down from the city of Mexico.

In the first, which was in reply to the one we had addressed him on the 9th of this month, he informs us that, with the President's sanction, he accepts the invitation made him to meet General Prim on the 18th instant.

In the second, which is an answer to ours of the 11th, he assures us that the Mexican Government has full confidence in the subordination of General Zaragoza, who will not in any way interfere with the proposed meeting.

Admiral Jurien de la Gravière having expressed the desire to be furnished with an account of the operations of the Vera Cruz Custom-house since its occupation by the Spaniards, orders were issued to the Collector to furnish a report in triplicate, one for each Commissioner, of the vessels which had come into port since that date, the merchandize imported, and of the duties which should have been recovered thereon; together with an approximate calculation of the duties that will be recoverable on such goods as are now in bond, as well as of the moneys already collected, and of the actual expenditure of the Custom-house up to the present day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

General Doblado to the Allied Commissioners.

(Translation.)

Mexico, February 13, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note which their Excellencies the Commissioners of Great Britain, France, and Spain, addressed to him on the 9th instant, from Vera Cruz, and to inform them in reply that the President is willing that he should accept the

invitation for a Conference, as mentioned in the above note, and set out with full powers for Orizaba to-morrow, so as to be at the place of meeting fixed upon by the Commissioners on the 19th instant, and receive the explanations which they have referred to in their communication. The 19th has been chosen for the interview, in order to give the Undersigned time for his journey. Should, however, any unforeseen accident prevent his coming on that day, he will take care duly to advise their Excellencies.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DOBLADO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

General Doblado to the Allied Commissioners.

(Translation.)

Mexico, February 13, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic, has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the note addressed to him on the 11th instant by the Commissioners of the Allied Powers, and to inform them, in reply, that his Government do not consider General Zaragoza will be guilty of insubordination, and that consequently there is no reason whatever why the Conference between the Undersigned and his Excellency the Count de Reus should not take place in the manner and at the spot already agreed upon, as has been stated in a separate note to their Excellencies bearing to-day's date.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

DOBLADO.

No. 70.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, February 22, 1862.

IN my despatch of the 17th instant was inclosed a copy of a letter dated the 13th, from General Doblado, accepting the invitation we had made for an interview between himself and General Prim, who was duly authorized by us to afford him such explanations on the nature of our intervention as he might require.

This interview took place on the 19th instant, at the Mexican head-quarters of the Soledad, and resulted, as I had always hoped it would do, in giving a much more favourable turn to affairs than appeared at all probable a few days before.

General Prim, in the conversation which ensued, was enabled to convince Señor Doblado that the rumours he had heard of our coming here with the intention of upsetting the present Government and establishing a Monarchy in its stead was false; that we were, on the contrary, bound by the stipulations of the Convention of the 31st of October last not to interfere with the free choice of the Mexicans in the form of their government; and that neither of the three Powers were permitted by the same stipulations to seek for any special advantage or influence in the Republic. He added that we had come here to obtain redress for certain grievances complained of by our countrymen, as well as to see that due and proper protection was afforded to them and to their property, and that if such was given to them by the present Government there was no reason why we should not remain friends instead of becoming enemies. Until, however, this was done, our forces must remain in the Republic, and we must retain possession of the material guarantee we had obtained by the occupation of the Castle and Port of Vera Cruz. He concluded by saying that in the mean time we required a more healthy locality for our troops, and that consequently their march up to the table-land of Cordova must take place at once—he hoped peaceably and with the consent of the Mexican Government; but in the event of that being withheld, we should force the passes and occupy the line of Cordova, Orizaba, and Jalapa.

To this Señor Doblado replied, that after this frank explanation no further doubt as to our intentions could be entertained, and that if General Prim would consent to acknowledge, in the name of himself and his colleagues, the present Government of Mexico, and would treat with them for the settlement of pending differences, they, on their part, would consent to the occupation by the allied troops of the towns of Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan, the latter as being better situated for us than Jalapa.

Having thus met half-way in a spirit of conciliation the understanding was soon complete, and six preliminary Articles were drawn up and signed by both officers, subject to our ratification on the one side, and to that of the President of the Republic on the other.

In what I have already said I have given the substance of the first three Articles of this Agreement. The fourth provides for the case in which our future negotiations with this Government should fail, when it is stipulated that the allied forces should withdraw one day's march on this side of the fortified passes of Chiquihuiti and Cerro Gordo, which are considered their strongest line of defence.

Article 5 secures the safety of the allied hospitals left at the above-named towns, which are placed under the safeguard of the Mexican nation.

It is agreed by Article 6 that the Mexican flag shall also be hoisted in the Castle and town of Vera Cruz on the same day that the allied troops begin their march into the interior.

This, of course, will in no way interfere with our military occupation and possession of both.

Señor Doblado intimated a desire that the Custom-house should be returned to the Mexican Government, subject, however, of course, to the charges we had on it, and consented to the appointment of Interventors, whose duty it would be to see that such charges were duly levied in compliance with Treaty stipulations.

To this proposal General Prim could not agree without having the sanction of his colleagues, and therefore it was left for future consideration.

He returned to Vera Cruz from this interview at 11 o'clock at night, when a meeting was held at his house to submit to our consideration the above-named six preliminary Articles, which I herewith inclose for your Lordship's information.

Having duly approved and ratified them, they were at once sent back to Señor Doblado, who dispatched them on the following morning to Mexico for the President's ratification, which, it is hoped, can be received here on the 25th instant.

This meeting formed our twelfth Conference.

The Decree alluded to, which gave rise to some discussion in the above-named Conference is, in point of fact, only a compilation of a number of bygone Edicts against the abettors of rebellion and foreign invasion in general, which have been put together and once more brought forward for the present occasion; so that, as it will probably again become a dead-letter, we thought it much better, on the whole, not to take any serious notice of it, as, by doing so, we should only be giving undue importance to that which, in itself, is an absurdity from the exaggerated severity of its enactments.

If the President sanctions the agreement entered into with Señor Doblado, the allied troops begin the forward movement, as sickness amongst them is hourly increasing.

This has taken place in what is considered as the healthy season, so that your Lordship may imagine what the mortality would be when the hot weather regularly sets in next month.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

Preliminaries agreed on between the Count de Reus and General Doblado.

(Translation.)

1. AS the Constitutional Government which at present rules in the Mexican Republic has made known to the Commissioners of the allied Powers that it is not in want of the help that they have so benevolently offered to the Mexican people, since it possesses in itself the elements of strength and of public opinion sufficient to preserve itself against any intestine revolt whatever, the allies from this time enter into negotiations ("entran en el terreno de los tratados") in order to adjust ("formalizar") all the claims that they have to make in the name of their respective nations.

2. Accordingly, and protesting as do protest the Representatives of the allied Powers, that they will attempt nothing against the independence, sovereignty, and integrity of the territory of the Republic, the negotiations will be opened in Orizaba, to which city will repair the Commissioners and two of the Ministers of the Government of the Republic, except in the case that by common consent it should be arranged to name Representatives delegated by both parties.

3. During the negotiations the forces of the allied Powers will occupy the towns of Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan, with their natural limits.

4. In order that it may not in the most remote degree be believed that the allies have signed these preliminaries in order to obtain the passage of the fortified positions garrisoned by the Mexican army, it is stipulated that in the unfortunate event of the negotiations being broken off, the forces of the allies will retire from the said towns, and

will place themselves in the line that is beyond the said fortifications, on the Vera Cruz side; Paso Ancho on the Cordova road, and Paso de Ovejas on that of Jalapa, being the principal extreme points.

5. Should the unfortunate event of the breaking off of negotiations take place, and the allied troops retire to the line indicated in the preceding Article, the hospitals that the allies may have will remain under the protection of the Mexican nation.

6. The day on which the allied troops commence their march to occupy the places marked out in the 3rd Article, the Mexican flag shall be hoisted in the city of Vera Cruz, and on the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa.

La Soledad, February 19, 1862.

(Signed)

EL CONDE DE REUS.
MANUEL DOBLADO.

Approved.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.

Approuvé les préliminaires ci-dessus.

(Signé)

E. JURIEN.
D. DE SALIGNY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Protocol of the Twelfth Conference of the Allied Commissioners.

(Translation.)

IN the city of Vera Cruz, at 11 o'clock on the night of the 19th day of February of 1862, being assembled their Excellencies the Plenipotentiaries and Commanders of the Forces of the Allied Nations, and after the Protocol of the preceding Conference has been approved, the sitting is opened.

The Count de Reus addresses the meeting, in order to give an account to his colleagues of what had taken place in the conference that he had had that very day, the 19th, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and he does so in the following terms:—

“As agreed on, I started from Vera Cruz at dawn, on my way to Soledad; at a league from the said place Generals Doblado and Zaragoza were waiting for me with a carriage, and I continued my journey with those gentlemen, escorted by a squadron of Mexican carabineers.

“As soon as we arrived at the Soledad, General Doblado and I went to a separate dwelling, and began our conference.

“I found in the General a superior and intelligent person, and of very good manners. He seemed to me to be a man well acquainted with the affairs of his country, and I believe that in what he said there was sincerity and frankness; for he did not, as other persons are wont to do, cry up to me the excellencies of his country, nor the superiority of the political party to which he belongs; on the contrary, he made me an exact description, and one not at all inspired by passion, of the position of the Republic.

“He told me, in short, that the Government was surrounded by difficulties from the sort of independence that exists among the States, whose Governors refuse to obey the orders of the Government of the capital; from the excited state of public feeling, and more especially in the present case, which at times prevents the Government, limited as it is in its authority, from dictating the measures which the situation demands, and prudence counsels.

“He observed to me that in this country, for a long time disturbed by intestine revolts, there is a considerable party, composed of persons who have no other employment but war, and who, accustomed to disorder and vandalism, will with difficulty submit themselves to a policy whose object would be to augment the authority of the Government, to re-establish peace, and strengthen order. They desire war, because by it they live, and with it they thrive; and every arrangement that should depart in the least from legality will be a sufficient pretext for them to rise against the established Government.

“General Doblado admitted that the allied Powers have much more force than is necessary in order to impose any conditions on this country, which is so weakened and divided; and he owned to me that in his opinion, and in that of all sensible people, the military elements that are now in Vera Cruz suffice, and more than suffice, to crumple up the forces that the Mexican Government would be able to oppose to them;

but the sensible men are in a minority, and the masses which constitute the immense majority do not allow themselves to be guided by reasons, but by their passions. They have seen arrive on the Mexican shores, without previous declaration of war, the troops of the allied nations, which have taken possession of a portion of the Mexican territory, and this has produced in the country an excitement which it will be very difficult to calm down.

"The Government desires to enter into pacific arrangements, and believes that it will be able to do so easily, if the foreign Governments take into consideration what is due to that of the Republic, and do not force it to sacrifice its feeling of national dignity. If, on the contrary, it is forced to adopt precipitately measures which would authorize the malcontents to accuse it of treason to the country, the nation would again fall into disorder and anarchy, and there will be no means for any party to form a strong and stable Government.

"It is necessary to give time to the majority of the nation to persuade itself that the allied forces do not come with a view to attempt anything against the independence and sovereignty of Mexico; it is necessary to destroy the bad effect produced in the country by the false rumours that have been published, and which the people, in its ignorance, has received as true. It is believed by some that France has the fixed intention of establishing a Monarchy, and others give out as certain that Spain desires to re-establish her ancient dominion in the Republic. If the belief in these rumours is not done away with, the ultras of all parties will resist obstinately any arrangement with the Commanders of the forces which occupy Vera Cruz.

"If the allies consent to make a solemn declaration contradicting these rumours; if they give the Government time to go on preparing the minds and modifying the opinion of the country, the Government is, on its part, decided to do everything in order to obtain the prompt and satisfactory arrangement of the pending differences. As the principal object of the allied expedition is to demand reparation for injuries and the fulfilment of Treaties, as the Government offers to do whatever may be just, and to fulfil all its obligations with the allied Powers, seeing that the intentions of England, France, and Spain, are noble, generous, and disinterested; and taking into account that the Mexican nation does not accept the help so benevolently offered by the foreign forces in order to re-establish peace and order, inasmuch as the present Government has at its disposal sufficient means to obtain these results, there is no reason to oppose to the commencement of friendly negotiations. But before entering into the whole question it would be proper to settle some preliminary basis which would render acceptable to the country the entry of foreign troops into the interior of the country.

"To these reasons of General Doblado, I answered that indeed our Governments did not entertain the design of imposing on Mexico a form of government contrary to the wishes of the country. That all the allied Commissioners represent nations governed by Constitutional Monarchies, and that under the shadow of this system England, France, and Spain prosper and grow great; therefore, if counsel were asked of us, we should recommend Constitutional Monarchy as the best Government, but in no way will we attempt to force on the country our ideas and opinions.

"I repelled most energetically the absurd supposition that the Spanish Government had the most remote pretension to rule this country. I gave the most formal assurances that the independence and integrity of the Republic would be respected; and I stated to General Doblado that the present Administration possessed unequivocal proofs of our having regulated our conduct in accordance with what was agreed on in the Convention of London, namely, in not interfering in the internal policy of the country, and in treating with the established Government, which has not any ground of complaint against us, since in our relations with it we have taken into consideration all that was due to it. After this frank explanation on both sides we could not fail to agree on the principal points; we had only to settle upon the form best suited to make the preliminary stipulations acceptable to the country.

"As first basis General Doblado required the recognition of the present Government. I gave him to understand that such an express recognition was not possible, of which, however, the present Government had no need, since it declares that it possesses sufficient strength to constitute itself in a solid and permanent manner; with which reasons I succeeded in getting General Doblado to desist from this requirement.

"Without opposing the slightest difficulty, I consented to declare that nothing should be attempted against the sovereignty, independence, and integrity of the Mexican nation—a declaration which we made spontaneously in our first communication to the Mexican Government.

"Afterwards the General observed to me, that if, when the foreign troops had

penetrated peaceably into the heart of the country, an agreement should not be arrived at, we should have succeeded in rendering useless the principal means of defence of the Mexican Government, having passed as friends the fortified points that there are between Vera Cruz and the towns we are to occupy. I assured Señor Doblado that the fortified positions, in which the Mexicans place such confidence, were obstacles of little importance to our troops; that therefore, and so that we might never, nor by anybody, be accused of having entered into the country in a perfidious manner, should the negotiations happen to be broken off, we would return and take up our positions beyond the fortified line.

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs desired to settle a truce or term within which we should not be able to make use of our arms, after we had returned and occupied our former positions; but far from acceding to such a demand, I declared to the General that on the day following that on which we arrived in our retrograde movement at the limit marked out for us, we should take possession of his so much vaunted fortifications.

"Although it had been intended that a portion of the allied forces should take up their positions in the city of Jalapa, General Doblado stated that as Tehuacan was on the same road as Cordova and Orizaba, and nearer to this last place than Jalapa, it would, perhaps, be preferable for us to occupy the cities of Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan.

"Foreseeing that we shall have to form, in the points we occupy, hospitals which will be abandoned the day that, in consequence of a rupture, we evacuate the said towns, I desired to have it stated, among the preliminary stipulations, that the hospitals would remain under the protection of the Mexican nation; it seemed to me right to say the nation, and not Government, in order to prevent its enemies from committing, in order to do it injury, outrages and misdeeds, the responsibility of which falls upon it.

"In conclusion, General Doblado observed to me, that the country in general had taken it very ill that the Mexican flag should have disappeared from the town of Vera Cruz, and from the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa; that notwithstanding that it might appear a puerile demand, the majority of the Mexicans desired ardently that the national flag should again float by the side of those of the allied nations.

"I stated to General Doblado that, strictly speaking, it was not our fault that the Mexican flag had disappeared, since the garrisons of Vera Cruz and Ulloa, when they abandoned those points on the 15th December, 1861, not only took with them the flags, but also the halyards. As already among ourselves we had touched upon this point, it having reached our ears that for the Mexicans it was of the greatest importance, whilst in our eyes it had not any signification; taking likewise into account that we are about to occupy peaceably Mexican towns, where the Mexican flag will float without our having any right to prevent it, it appeared to me that there was not any inconvenience in acceding to this demand, certain as I was that my colleagues were of the same opinion as myself.

"After having agreed upon these points, Señor Doblado touched upon the advantage of returning the Custom-house of Vera Cruz to the Mexican authorities; but as this demand had not been foreseen, and although in our hands the Custom-house produces nothing, it appeared to me that the question was too serious a one for me to settle, without submitting beforehand this incident to the consideration of my colleagues.

"I now proceed to read the preliminary stipulations agreed on with General Doblado, so that the Commissioners may make the observations and propose the modifications that they may deem proper."

After the preliminaries have been read the French Minister addresses the meeting, and states the propriety of demanding from the Mexican Government the abrogation of the Decree of the 25th of January, by which all the persons composing the allied expedition are placed beyond the pale of the law.

The British Minister reads the said Decree, and expresses the opinion that no importance should be given to the said document, of which the Conference has no official knowledge.

The French Minister does not believe that a Decree in which the penalty of death is imposed on all the individuals who form part of the forces which now occupy Vera Cruz, and its neighbourhood, is of so little importance, and that although this Decree has not been officially communicated to the Allied Commissioners, nobody is ignorant of its existence, since it is to be seen, signed by the President, in the Mexican newspapers.

Admiral Jurien de la Gravière is of opinion that if the abrogation of the said Decree is demanded only for the part touching the allies, they would be sanctioning, up to a certain point, the barbarous enactments which have reference to the native and foreign persons residing in the country.

The French Minister declares that, for his part, he does not entertain any doubt that the Mexican Government would abrogate without difficulty the enactments of the Decree

in question in what touches the allied forces and their commanders, reserving to themselves the power of re-establishing them should the negotiations be broken off. He desires that it should be stated that he has expressed this opinion, but that if none of his colleagues share the same, he would submit to the decision of the majority.

The Admiral points out that this abrogation might have been fittingly demanded at the time that the Decree became known; but after having exchanged with the Government several communications, in which not the slightest mention was made of it, the demand appears tardy and inopportune. He states, nevertheless, that he is not opposed to the total abrogation of the Decree being asked for; since what ought to be avoided is that individuals residing in the interior of the country, and whom the effects of the Decree of January 25 may easily reach, should see themselves exposed to arbitrary acts of barbarity in presence of the flags of three nations who come to this country as representatives of civilization.

Count Saligny observes that in a preceding Conference, and as soon as he knew of the Decree, he called the attention of his colleagues to this document; and also pointed out that it was proper to request its abrogation. He believes that without including this demand in the preliminary bases, the complete abrogation of the Decree can be asked for, the Government retaining the power of dictating another, from which may be excluded every barbarous measure, and those contrary to humanity.

Commodore Dunlop is of the opinion that the part of the above-mentioned Decree which refers to the allies becomes null and void from the moment that the Government enters into peaceable negotiations with the Commanders of the foreign forces.

The English Minister asks Count de Reus to explain to him the concluding part of the 2nd Article of the Preliminaries, in which it is said "except in the case, that by common consent it should be arranged to name Representatives delegated by both parties."

In reply, Count Reus states that, perhaps there will be questions to be decided relating to details of little importance, in which case the Commissioners of the Allied Powers will be able to entrust those questions of less importance to the examination of delegates that shall be named for that purpose.

Admiral Jurien asks if the Mexican flag will have to be saluted, when it is hoisted. For his part, he thinks that such a salute ought not to be made, as it would appear like a reparation.

Count de Reus is of the same opinion, and besides remarks, that in the agreements in which reparations are stipulated, it is generally stated that on the flag being hoisted the salute due to it shall be made; but as in the preliminary bases agreed on with General Doblado no mention whatever is made of the salute, there is no obligation to make it, and with so much more reason that the Spanish forces on entering Vera Cruz did not find any flag.

With respect to the question of the Custom-house, the French Minister, before deciding, wishes again to consult his instructions.

The Count de Reus states that the instructions of the Spanish Government direct, in a decisive manner, that the Custom-houses are to be occupied; but, seeing the inefficacy of this occupation, which has caused the military chest of the Spanish army to disburse, up to the present date, 8,000 dollars, he considers himself authorized to adopt any measure which does not give negative results.

Count de Saligny thinks that the giving over of the Custom-house to the Mexican authorities would be a step backwards, and would have a very bad effect in Europe.

The British Minister is of opinion, that if delegates or interventors of the three nations are established, with the faculties to supervise all the operations of the Custom-house, the Allied Governments cannot but approve of this measure, which will be in entire accordance with the stipulations of the Convention of London.

The French Minister thinks that in this case it will be not only prudent, but necessary, that the Mexican Government should engage not to establish interior Custom-houses.

Count de Reus and Admiral Jurien de la Gravière observe upon the necessity of securing, in case of the giving up of the Custom-house, the importation, free of all duty, of the provisions and articles destined for the expedition.

Count de Reus remarks, that perhaps there would be frauds and abuses; to which M. de Saligny replies, that the intervention of the foreign delegates ought to be a sufficient guarantee that no illegal act will be committed with impunity.

All the Commissioners approve, without any modification, of the six Articles contained in the draft of preliminary bases presented by Count de Reus, of which four copies are made, which after having been signed by the Count de Reus, and ratified by his four

colleagues, are sent immediately by an officer commissioned for the purpose to General Doblado, in order that he may sign them, and return three of them, one for each Mission.

The settlement of the other points remains pending for another Conference.
The sitting is raised without fixing a day for the next one.

No. 71.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, February 23, 1862.

THE views of Mr. Corwin, with reference to the respective positions of Juarez and Doblado, coincide with my own, and convince me that a Government representing the two principles they personify, affords the best reflection of public opinion to be found in this unfortunate country.

Juarez is still looked up to as embodying a principle which the Liberal party has fought a three years' war to maintain.

If Doblado relies on the moral support he might derive by accepting our intervention in a friendly spirit, then he may succeed in re-establishing order and respect for life and property; and that once done, the resources of the country are so great that it would soon right itself, and its Government be enabled eventually to fulfil all their engagements, thus relieving us from a task which, under other circumstances, we should find both hazardous and difficult to perform, without the presence of an armed force here much more considerable than the one we now have at our command.

No. 72.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, February 26, 1862.

AT the thirteenth Conference, held on the 24th instant, we finally approved of the Report drawn up by the Consuls for the Civil administration of the town, which I have herewith the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, as it also fixes the attributions of the English and French Interventors, who are to watch over and regulate, to a certain degree, the operations of the Custom-house here.

A second Report from the same functionaries, recommending an assignment of 20 per cent. on import duties, for defraying the expenses of its administration, was also read and approved of by the Commissioners.

We are naturally anxious to hand over the Custom-house and Civil administration of the town to the Mexican authorities, if we can do so on terms that will duly guarantee the protection of our interests.

The present interregnum is highly objectionable in many respects, as it compromises the legality of every act now performed here, besides crippling trade, and diminishing the receipts of the Custom-house, which have fallen off considerably since the occupation of this place by the allied forces.

The adopted Reports were then ordered to be passed to the Governor of the town, and the Conference closed by the French Admiral announcing that he meant to march with the French Contingent into the interior of the country on the 26th instant, in virtue of the Agreement come to between Señor Doblado and General Prim, which we have since learnt has been duly ratified by the President of the Republic.

General Prim and Commodore Dunlop will start three or four days later.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Regulations for the Civil Administration of Vera Cruz.

EN attendant qu'il soit fait avec le Gouvernement Mexicain une Convention sur l'occupation du territoire de la République par les forces des Puissances alliées, les dispositions qui suivent auront force de loi :—

Article 1. La présence des troupes alliées sur le territoire Mexicain constituant une occupation et non une prise de possession, les lois du pays resteront en vigueur, sauf les modifications qu'il y aura lieu d'y introduire à cause de cette situation exceptionnelle.

Organisation des Pouvoirs Civils et Administratifs.

Art. 2. Le Gouvernement Civil de Vera Cruz sera exercé par un officier supérieur Espagnol qui aura seul le pouvoir exécutif, mais ne pourra prendre aucune décision réglementaire en tout ce qui ne sera pas relatif aux opérations militaires.

Art. 3. Il sera établi auprès du Gouvernement Local une Commission Administrative ; les fonctions de membre de cette Commission seront gratuites.

Art. 4. La Commission Administrative se composera du Gouverneur, du Consul du France, du Consul d'Espagne, du Vice-Consul de la Grande Bertagne.

La présidence appartiendra au Gouverneur et en son absence au Consul de France comme doyen.

Les délibérations seront prises à la pluralité des votes.

Toutes les fois que le Consul d'Espagne participera aux délibérations, le Gouverneur n'aura que voix consultative.

Art. 5. La Commission Administrative aura pouvoir de modifier toutes les lois en vigueur qui ne répondraient pas aux exigences de la situation, de décréter telles nouvelles dispositions qu'elle jugera utiles, abrogeant celles déjà existantes, de voter les impôts et de faire tous les règlements de police, d'administration et autres que les circonstances rendront nécessaires. Elle fixera les traitements, les augmentera ou les diminuera suivant les circonstances, c'est-à-dire, les ressources du trésor et les besoins du service, sauf les dispositions exceptionnelles relatives à la Donane et contenue dans l'Article ci-après.

Le Gouverneur, d'accord avec la Commission, nommera et revoquera tous les employés autres que les chefs de service commissionnés par la Conférence des Représentants des Puissances alliées.

La nomination et révocation des expéditionnaires autres que ceux de la Douane appartiendra au Gouverneur seul.

Art. 6. L'Ayuntamiento conservera tous les droits et immunités que lui octroyent les lois Mexicaines.

Les traitements civils de tous degrés et la Cour Suprême sont maintenus avec toute l'étendue de juridiction que leur concède la loi du pays.

Art. 7. En conformité de l'Article 6 qui précède, les membres de l'Ayuntamiento déjà élus par la population, les Juges, et les Magistrats, peuvent reprendre leurs fonctions.

Art. 8. Dans le cas où les membres de l'Ayuntamiento, les Juges civils de tous degrés, et les Magistrats de la Cour Suprême de Vera Cruz, ne viendraient pas dans un délai moral reprendre leurs fonctions, il sera procédé comme suit.

L'Ayuntamiento sera remplacé par une Junte Municipale qui aura tous les pouvoirs municipaux.

Le Juge de première instance sera suppléé aux termes de la loi par le premier Alcalde ou celui qui en remplira les fonctions ; il nommera un greffier, si le titulaire ne se présente pas.

A défaut de membres de la Cour Suprême les demandes en appel seront jugées en dernier ressort sans recours ni opposition par trois arbitres, dont deux nommés par les parties, et le troisième désigné par la Commission Administrative.

Art. 9. Le Tribunal de Commerce tel qu'il se trouve constitué, c'est-à-dire, de négociants et sans intervention de Juge, est maintenu, et les sentences qu'il rendra seront exécutoires dans les limites de la compétence fixée par les lois de la matière.

Art. 10. Si l'état de siège n'était pas déclaré, tous les crimes et délits commis sur le territoire de la juridiction de Vera Cruz, sauf ceux commis par ou contre des militaires qui ressortiront des Conseils de Guerre compétents, seront jugés par un jury sous la présidence du Juge Criminel, ou de celui appelé à la remplacer si le titulaire ne reprend pas ses fonctions.

Le jury déclarera seulement après audition des témoins et les débats contradictoires si l'accusé est coupable et à quel degré, ou si il n'est pas reconnu coupable.

Dans le premier cas le Juge appliquera la peine portée par le code Mexicain, dans le second il absoudra l'accusé.

La composition du jury et la forme de la procédure à suivre seront établies par un règlement qui sera dressé ultérieurement.

Les fonctions de juré seront obligatoires.

Art. 11. L'Administration des Postes se composera provisoirement d'un directeur,

d'un interveneur, et de deux distributeurs payés sur les revenus de cette administration. Leurs traitements seront fixés par la Commission Administrative.

Art. 12. Les revenus publics à percevoir à Vera Cruz appartiennent soit à la Municipalité, soit à l'Etat, soit à la Confédération.

Les premiers seront perçus par le trésorier de l'Ayuntamiento, qui sera aussi chargé de collecter ceux de l'Etat ; si cette Corporation refusait à son trésorier l'autorisation de se charger de cette perception il sera nommé par la Commission Administrative un Collecteur Spécial.

La perception des revenus de la Confédération, qui se composent pour le moment des recettes de la Poste et de la Douane maritime, s'effectuera la première par les soins du Directeur des Postes, la seconde comme il sera établi ci-après aux Articles 15, 16, 17, 18, et 19.

Art. 13. Tous les comptables des deniers publics seront tenus de remettre chaque mois à la Commission Administrative un état des recettes, et un état des dépenses avec les ordonnancements de paiements faits par le Gouverneur, et les pièces justificatives de ce paiement.

Art. 14. Les dépenses municipales seront supportées par les revenus municipaux et les dépenses de l'Etat sur les fonds de l'Etat.

Les traitements du Gouverneur, de son Secrétaire, de ses employés, des juges, et autres fonctionnaires de l'Etat, sont compris dans ce dernier chapitre.

Le traitement du Gouverneur est fixé à 200 piastres par mois, celui de son Secrétaire à 100 piastres.

Administration des Douanes.

Art. 15. La perception des recettes de la Douane maritime de Vera Cruz sera opérée par l'Administrateur Espagnol commissionné au nom des Représentants des Puissances alliées.

Art. 16. Deux Délégués, l'un Français l'autre Anglais, exerceront auprès de la Douane maritime et du Resguardo de Vera Cruz les fonctions de Contrôleur-Inspecteur.

Ils seront donc chargés de surveiller les recettes et les dépenses de l'Administration. A cet effet ils prendront part, quoique indirectement, à cette administration, leurs droits d'intervention allant aussi loin, sauf l'application du Tarif, que les attributions de l'Administrateur.

Dans le but de surveiller les recettes ils se feront présenter au Bureau du Contrôle qui leur sera affecté dans le local de l'administration, les livres courants et journaliers, grands livres, registres, facteurs, feuilles d'expédition, et tous documents qu'ils jugeront utiles pour les éclairer dans leur mission.

L'Administrateur sera même tenu de leur donner des explications, quand ils les réclameront. Ils auront aussi le droit d'inspecter les actes du Resguardo.

Ils demanderont et obtiendront la révocation de tous employés dont la conduite présente ou passée ne leur offrirait pas de suffisantes garanties de moralité.

Ils jugeront avec l'administrateur toutes les questions de saisie de marchandises quel qu'en soit la cause, et aussi celles relatives à la classification des marchandises si la contestation est d'importance.

Ils interviendront en un mot dans toutes les circonstances où ils croiront leur intervention utile sans que l'administrateur puisse leur contester ce droit.

Dans le but de surveiller la dépense il leur sera remis copie du budget des dépenses arrêté conformément au paragraphe ci-après et à l'Article 18. Les pièces justificatives à l'appui des dépenses leur seront également produites.

Dans les cas où il y aurait des dépenses imprévues, elles ne pourront être faites par l'administrateur qu'après s'être mis d'accord avec les délégués.

Les délégués seront aidés dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions d'un Secrétaire spécial nommé par eux.

Leurs fonctions commenceront par la révision des comptes à partir du 1 Janvier, 1862.

Art. 17. Il sera procédé chaque mois à une liquidation des recettes et des dépenses, et l'excédant de ces recettes, les dépenses de l'administration payées, sera versé dans une caisse fermant à trois clefs différentes, dont une restera entre les mains de l'administrateur et les deux autres seront remises à chacun des délégués de manière à ce que la dite caisse ne puisse être ouverte qu'en présence des trois.

Il sera tenu un livre exact des entrées et des sorties de la caisse.

Quant à la caisse courante du mois elle restera entre les mains de l'administrateur, qui en sera responsable.

Art. 18. Il ne sera rien changé à l'organisation du personnel de la Douane Maritime

et du Resguardo. Il sera alloué aux employés en exercice les traitements fixés par le Gouvernement Mexicain.

Il sera attribué à chaque délégué les honoraires de " Oficial Primero," et au Secrétaire ceux de " Oficial Segundo."

Ces divers traitements seront payées sur les recettes de la Douane.

L'administrateur devra dans un but d'économie, si les délégués le jugent à propos, supprimer les postes inutiles, comme aussi diminuer les traitements ci-dessus fixés.

Art. 19. La quotité des droits à payer au comptant lors du dédouanement des marchandises sera fixée par l'administration et les deux délégués.

Notaires.

Art. 20. Si les notaires publics ne viennent pas exercer leur ministère, les actes sous seings privés, écrits sur papier libre enregistrés au Greffe du Tribunal de Première Instance sur un registre spécial, seront réputés authentiques.

Etat Civil.

Art. 21. Les fonctions d'officier de l'Etat civil seront, en l'absence du Magistrat qui en est chargé, remplies provisoirement par le troisième Alcalde ou la personne qui en tiendra lieu.

Compétence exceptionnelle donnée à la Commission Administrative.

Art. 22, et dernier. Si la pratique des affaires démontrait que quelque omission eût été faite dans le présent Règlement, comme si la sécurité publique obligeait des modifications d'urgence, l'initiative des propositions pour ces additions ou modifications reviendrait à la Commission Administrative; ces propositions auraient force d'exécution provisoire si elles étaient d'urgence et qu'il y eût impossibilité d'en référer à la Conférence de Plénipotentiaires des Puissances alliées.

(Translation.)

UNTIL a Convention is concluded with the Mexican Government on the subject of the occupation of the territory of the Republic by the allied Powers, the following Regulations shall have the force of law:—

Article 1. The presence of the allied troops on Mexican territory constituting an occupation, and not a forcible seizure, the laws of the country shall remain in force, with the exception of such modifications as it may be necessary to introduce on account of the exceptional nature of the situation.

Organization of the Civil and Administrative Powers.

Art. 2. The Civil Government of Vera Cruz will be administered by a superior Spanish officer, who alone will possess the executive power, but who will not be able to give any ruling decision in anything not relating to military operations.

Art. 3. There will be established, in conjunction with the Local Government, an Administrative Commission; the duties of the members of this Commission will be gratuitous.

Art. 4. The Administrative Commission will be composed of the Governor, the Consul of France, the Consul of Spain, and the Vice-Consul of England.

The precedence will belong to the Governor, and in his absence to the Consul of France, as senior.

Consultations will be decided by a majority of votes.

Whenever the Spanish Consul shall take part in the consultations, the Governor will only have a consulting voice.

Art. 5. The Administrative Commission will have power to modify all laws in force which may not suit the exigencies of the situation, and to make such new provisions as they may judge convenient, annulling those already in existence, and to vote taxes, and to make all regulations of police administration, and others, which circumstances may render necessary.

It will fix the salaries, diminishing or increasing them according to circumstances, that is to say, the resources of the Treasury, and the money needful for the service, excepting the exceptional provisions relating to Customs, which are set forth in the following Article.

The Governor, with the concurrence of the Commission, will nominate and discharge

all employés, except the chiefs of the service, appointed at the Conference of the Representatives of the allied Powers.

The nomination and discharge of functionaries other than those of the Customs, will belong to the Governor alone.

Art. 6. The Ayuntamiento will retain all the rights and immunities which the Mexican laws grant it.

Civil appointments of all degrees, and the Supreme Court, are maintained with all the extent of jurisdiction allowed them by the law of the country.

Art. 7. In conformity with the foregoing Article 6, the members of the Ayuntamiento, already elected by the people, the Judges, and the Magistrates, can resume their functions.

Art. 8. In the event of Members of the Ayuntamiento, Civil Judges of all degrees, and Magistrates of the Supreme Court of Vera Cruz, not coming, after a certain time, to resume their duties, the following will be the course of proceeding:—

The Ayuntamiento will be replaced by a Municipal Council, which will possess all municipal powers.

The place of the Chief Judge will be supplied in accordance with the law by the Chief Alcalde, or the person who fulfils his duty; he will appoint a Registrar, if he who holds that office does not appear.

In default of members of the Supreme Court, appeals will be finally judged, without any further litigation or pleading, by three arbitrators, of whom two will be named by the parties, and the third by the Administrative Commission.

Art. 9. The Tribunal of Commerce, as it is now constituted, that is to say, of merchants, and without the intervention of a Judge, is maintained, and its decrees will be enforced within the limits of jurisdiction fixed by the laws upon the subject.

Art. 10. If a state of siege is not declared, all crimes and misdemeanours committed within the territory and jurisdiction of Vera Cruz (except those committed by or against soldiers, which will come under the jurisdiction of competent Councils of War) will be tried by a jury under the presidency of the Criminal Judge, or by the person who replaces him, if the Judge does not resume his duties.

The jury will find whether the accused is guilty, and to what extent, or whether he is not held guilty, only after hearing the witnesses, and discussion on both sides.

In the first instance the Judge will inflict the penalty fixed by the Mexican Code; in the second, he will acquit the accused.

The composition of the jury, and the form of proceedings to follow, will be established by a regulation which will be prepared hereafter.

The duties of jurymen will be compulsory.

Art. 11. The Postal Establishment will be composed provisionally of a Director, an assistant, and two carriers, paid out of the revenues of that Establishment. Their salaries will be fixed by the Administrative Commission.

Art. 12. The public revenues to be collected at Vera Cruz belong, as the case may be, to the Municipality, to the State, or to the Confederation.

The first will be collected by the Treasurer of the Ayuntamiento, who will be also entrusted with the collection of those of the State: if that Corporation should refuse to authorize their Treasurer to collect these taxes, a special collector will be appointed by the Administrative Commission.

The collection of the taxes of the Confederation, which for the present will consist of the receipts of the Post Office and the Customs, will be managed, the first by the Director of the Post Office, the second as set forth in Articles 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.

Art. 13. All those responsible for the public money will be bound to furnish every month to the Administrative Commission a statement of the receipts, and a statement of the expenditure, with the orders of payment given by the Governor, and the vouchers of such payment.

Art. 14. The municipal expenses will be borne by the municipal revenues, and the expenses of the State by the funds of the State.

The salaries of the Governor, his Secretaries, and his employés, of the Judges and other officers of the State, are included in the last clause.

The salary of the Governor is fixed at 200 piastres per month, and that of his Secretary at 100 piastres.

The Administration of Customs.

Art. 15. The collection of Custom-house receipts at Vera Cruz will be conducted by the Spanish Manager, appointed in the name of the Representatives of the allied Powers.

Art. 16. Two Deputies, one French and the other English, will exercise the functions of Controlling Inspectors over the Custom-house and coast-guard of Vera Cruz.

They will, therefore, have to examine the receipts and expenditure of that Administration. And for that purpose they will take part, though indirectly, in that Administration; their right of superintendence, except as to the arrangement of the Tariff, going as far as those of the Manager.

In order to superintend the receipts, they will cause to be presented to them in the office which will be assigned to them in the Department, the day books, journals, registers, ledgers, shipping papers, and all documents which they may judge needful to enable them to perform their duty.

The Manager will be bound to give them any explanations they may demand. They will also have a right to inspect the actions of the Coast Guard.

They will demand and obtain the discharge of all employés whose conduct, past or present, does not seem to them to give sufficient guarantee for their good conduct.

They will decide with the Manager all questions of seizure of goods, whatever may be the cause of such seizure, and also those relating to the classification of goods, if the question is important.

In a word, they will interpose in all cases where they may think their intervention necessary, without the Manager being able to contest their right of doing so.

In order to examine the expenditure, a copy of the statement of expenses, drawn up in conformity with the following paragraph and Article 18 will be given them. The vouchers certifying the expenses will be also shown to them.

In the case of expenses not already provided for, they cannot be made by the Manager without his having first consulted the deputies.

The Deputies will be assisted in the performance of their duties by a special Secretary appointed by themselves.

Their duties will commence with the revision of the accounts from January 1, 1862.

Art. 17. Every month a balance of the receipts and expenses will be made, and the overplus of these receipts, after paying the expenses of the administration, will be placed in a chest locked with three different keys, of which one will be in the possession of the Manager, and the two others will be given to the Deputies, so that the chest cannot be opened except in the presence of the three.

An exact account will be kept of all issues and deposits.

As for the cash for the current month, it will remain in the hands of the Manager, who will be responsible for it.

Art. 18. No change shall be made in the organization of the staff of the Custom-house and Coast Guard.

The salaries fixed by the Mexican Government will be paid to the employés on duty.

Each deputy will receive the salary of an "Oficial Primero," and the Secretary that of "Oficial Segundo."

These different salaries will be paid out of the Customs receipts.

The Manager may, for the sake of economy, if the Deputies approve, suppress useless posts, and also diminish the salaries above-mentioned.

Art. 19. The proportion of the duty to be paid in ready money when goods are taken out of the Custom-house will be fixed by the Administration and the two Deputies.

Art. 20. If the notaries public do not resume their duties, deeds under private signature, written on unstamped paper, registered under the seal of the Tribunal de Première Instance, in a special register, will be considered authentic.

Civil Administration.

Art. 21. The duties of officer of the Civil Administration in the absence of the Magistrate who is charged with them, will be provisionally discharged by the third Alcalde or the person acting in his stead.

Special Power given to the Administrative Commission.

Art. 22 and last. If the state of affairs should show that some omission has been made in the present Regulations, as, for instance, if the public safety demanded immediate modifications, the initiative in the propositions for addition or modification would fall to the Administrative Commission; and these propositions should be put in operation provisionally, if they were urgent, and there was no possibility of submitting them to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the allied Powers.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, February 26, 1862.

IN my despatch of the 22nd instant I informed your Lordship that the Agreement come to between General Prim and Señor Doblado had been sent to Mexico for the President's ratification, after it had received that of the allied Commissioners.

This morning a courier arrived with despatches from Señor Doblado, informing us that the President's approbation of what had been done had been received, and that, consequently, the English, French, and Spanish forces could be moved up to more healthy quarters without further delay.

The French marched this morning, and our men and the Spaniards will follow them almost immediately, as the Commodore has just received from the Havana mules and carts enough to transport his heavy baggage.

Señor Doblado was anxious to have an interview with General Prim and myself at Jalapa prior to his return to Mexico, but as the English mail will leave this so soon, we neither of us could at present accept his invitation, but have asked him to meet us at Orizaba on the 8th of next month if he can manage to remain away so long from the capital.

In a private letter to me he expresses the wish that we should give up the Vera Cruz Custom-house again to the Mexican Government, on the condition of retaining only half of its receipts, and placing an Interventor there to see that the consignments due to foreign Governments were fairly distributed amongst their Consular Agents.

To this I replied that I could only consent to return the Custom-house to Mexican authorities on the distinct understanding that all consignments due to us by agreements and Treaty stipulations should be paid in monthly instalments, as was the case before the suspension of payments by the Law of the 17th of July last, and that the Consuls of the three nations should be appointed Interventors, so as to secure the due payment of what was owing to the clients of each.

This would only, of course, be a temporary measure until we had, by future negotiations, secured the acknowledgment and payment of those claims to be supported by each of the three allied Powers.

Señor Doblado is anxious to get hold of the Custom-house again, more for the sake of bringing about a better feeling amongst the Mexicans towards us than from any other reason, as he thinks that by this means the friendly nature of the intervention will be proved to the satisfaction of the most sceptical amongst his political opponents who have hitherto been advocating a war of extermination against the allies.

The French and Spanish Commissioners fully agree with me in seeing the advantage to be gained at present by giving up the Custom-house on the conditions above described, not only for the sake of what Señor Doblado wishes to bring about, but also because by so doing the importations would soon largely increase, and we should thereby benefit our interests as well as those of our debtor, whose resources we ought to try and augment by every means in our power.

I will report further to your Lordship with reference to this matter, which, up to the present moment, has only been treated of privately.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, February 28, 1862.

AS your Lordship will have seen by the inclosure in my despatch of the 22nd instant, it was agreed on in the last of the Preliminary Articles signed by General Prim and Señor Doblado, that the Mexican flag should be hoisted here alongside those of the allies, on the same day that the first body of our troops marched into the interior.

The French having started on the 26th instant, the Mexican flag was then hoisted and immediately saluted by an American frigate that arrived off Vera Cruz some days ago.

When the Spaniards took possession of this place immediately after their arrival here, they found no flag flying, as the Mexicans themselves had lowered it on deserting

the town; consequently there was no necessity for its being saluted by the allies when it was rehoisted again.

When all the troops shall have marched into the interior, the town will be garrisoned by 300 men from the fleet, each nation furnishing 100 men, besides 50 men for the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa, which, as I have already stated, is to be occupied in rotation by English, French, and Spaniards, under the command of an officer holding Post-Captain's rank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

P.S.—I should have mentioned that the American frigate, before saluting the Mexican flag, had already saluted those of England, France and Spain, now flying here.

No. 75.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord, Vera Cruz, March 1, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have named Mr. Eneas Giffard, our Vice-Consul here, to act as British Interventor in the Vera Cruz Custom-house, M. de Saligny having nominated his Consul as French Interventor.

These appointments are of course only temporary, and must depend in a great measure upon the arrangements which we may subsequently make with the Mexican Government for the future administration of the revenue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 76.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

(Extract.) Vera Cruz, March 1, 1862.

IN the despatch dated the 27th of January last,* your Lordship instructs me not to make any objection to the withdrawal of the Marines from Vera Cruz when the unhealthy season shall arrive.

Far from objecting to such a measure, I most gladly avail myself of the permission thus granted to carry it out, as both the Commodore and myself had assumed a great responsibility in allowing them to advance as far as Orizaba, from a desire to save the men from the fatal effects sure to be produced on them by the climate of the coast during the sickly season.

As the Commodore's instructions with reference to this matter tally with my own, we have determined at once to remove the battalion from Vera Cruz, where they have already suffered much from sickness, and ship them off to Bermuda as soon as the necessary means for transporting them there can be provided.

No. 77.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received March 31.)

(Extract.) Vera Cruz, March 1, 1862.

IN your despatch of the 27th of January* your Lordship informs me that the Emperor of the French has decided to send 3,000 more troops to Vera Cruz, and that it is probable these troops, together with the Spaniards already here, will march to the city of Mexico.

Your Lordship also mentions the rumour apparently current in Europe that the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian will be invited by a large body of Mexicans to place himself on the throne of Mexico, and that this people will gladly hail such a change.

There never was a greater fallacy than this!

Mr. Corwin's reputation in his own country stands so high that his opinion is worthy

* See Part I, No. 120.

of every respect, and I have found him since his residence in Mexico always thoroughly well acquainted with what is taking place in the Republic.

It is his opinion, as well as my own, that the actual Government, since it has had Señor Doblado at its head, unites the only elements in this unfortunate country that afford a hope for its future regeneration under a régime supported by what remains here of public opinion.

No. 78.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government approve your proceedings with regard to the intervention in Mexico, as reported in your despatch of the 26th ultimo.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 79.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1862.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 23rd ultimo,† and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government concur in the views with regard to Mexico stated in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 80.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government approve your proceedings as reported in your despatch of the 12th ultimo, in which you give an account of what passed at the seventh Conference of the allied Commissioners, and state the measures which you and Commodore Dunlop took to endeavour to effect a pacific solution of the Mexican question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 81.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1862.

I HAVE to convey to you the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the Regulations for the Civil Government of Vera Cruz, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch of the 26th ultimo.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 82.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government approve the intention of yourself and Commodore Dunlop to remove the Marines to Bermuda, as reported in your despatch of the 1st instant.§

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

* No. 73.

† No. 72.

‡ No. 71.

§ No. 76.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received April 1.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 31, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter dated the 26th ultimo, from Commodore Dunlop, and of its inclosure, addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, reporting his proceedings and the state of affairs in Mexico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Challenger," at Vera Cruz, February 26, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a letter, and its several inclosures, which I have addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne, K.C.B., Commander-in-chief, reporting proceedings and the state of affairs in Mexico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

Sir,

"Challenger," at Vera Cruz, February 26, 1862.

IN my letter of the 30th January I had the honour to inform you, in detail, of the political occurrences up to that date, and to forward a copy of a letter addressed by the Commissioners on behalf of the allied Powers to his Excellency the President of the Republic, with the answer received thereto; I have now the honour to annex copies of a further correspondence between the Commissioners and General Doblado, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, marked Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, the latter transmitting to the General a copy of a letter received from General Zaragoza, which, with the answer to it, is also herewith annexed, marked Nos. 5 and 6.*

2. The Inclosure No. 1 expresses the intention of the allies to advance in search of a more healthy situation about the middle of the present month, giving the Mexican Minister to understand that this step had become imperative, and would be taken under any circumstances. This letter was agreed to after being fully discussed by the Commissioners, and not before it was apparent to them that the health of the troops was such as to call for a speedy change of quarters in order to arrest the daily increasing sickness in each of the camps.

3. Inclosure No. 2 from the Mexican Minister being expressed in ambiguous terms, and proposing the delay of a Conference at Cordova, instead of an immediate consent to the advance of the troops, produced in the minds of the Commissioners a strong suspicion that it was the intention of the Mexican Government, first, to create delays with a view to increasing the sickness amongst the allied troops, and finally to break off the negotiations; this opinion was strengthened by the letter, the copy of which is marked No. 5, from General Zaragoza, which was insolent and uncalled for, and by the reports received of the violent feeling expressed by the heads of the Ultra Liberal Party against foreign intervention, which it seemed probable might be too strong for the Government, even if well-disposed, and force them to break off negotiations with the Commissioners. I have already had the honour to point out that the absolute necessity of removing the troops from Vera Cruz left the Allied Commanders-in-chief no alternative; an advance was imperative. After fully considering the letter received from General Doblado, and the question in all its bearings, as a last attempt at a peaceable solution of the question, the letter of which Inclosure No. 3 is a copy was addressed to the Mexican Minister, proposing a Conference between General Prim, on the part of the Commissioners, and

* See Inclosures in Nos. 65, 66, and 67.

himself, half-way between the allied camp at Tejiria and the Mexican force at Soledad; and in the meantime it was mutually agreed that every means should be adopted to procure the necessary transport for the allied force, with a view to march on Orizaba or Jalapa, as might be determined on, with or without the sanction of the Mexican Government, according to circumstances. The Spaniards, having sent back to Havana at least 1,000 men sick, and having fully as many more in hospital here, General Prim wrote for a reinforcement of four battalions from Havana, and the French will receive an addition of 500 Zouaves that are expected to arrive about the 1st March.

4. I sent Major Digby, R.M.A., who is acting as Chief of the Staff, to Havana in Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," with orders to purchase waggons and mules, and other means of transport for our men, as the supply is entirely cut-off here by the Mexicans.

5. Intelligence soon after this reached us that General Doblado, whom I may here mention is the man of most talent and energy in the Administration, and consequently in person may be said to represent the whole Government, had arrested the most violent of the Ultra Party, and so far disembarassed himself of their opposition and influence.

6. On the 17th we received a letter from Doblado saying he would meet General Prim, as proposed, on the 19th. This meeting has taken place, and has resulted in the Agreement contained in the annexed document, marked No. 7,* by which the allies take upon themselves the engagements therein specified.

7. Although this may lead to a prolonged occupation, I am not without hopes that it will result in great good to the Republic.

8. In following the narrative of results, as detailed in my different despatches, from the time of our landing here, you will no doubt perceive the chain of circumstances that have gradually led to the necessity for our advancing with the French and Spanish forces, independent of the state of health of the brigade, which alone makes either an immediate advance or a retreat to our shipping an absolute necessity.

9. Supposing that no sickness had prevailed in our camp, had circumstances led to hostilities we could not in honour have allowed our allies to advance and fight within twenty-five miles of us, which they must have done, without joining them, even if we had marched back to Vera Cruz after taking our share in clearing the mountain-passes between this and Orizaba or Jalapa, where all serious attack on our forces would have ended.

10. I believe I have said more than sufficient to show that, putting aside political and sanitary reasons for advancing the brigade of Marines to the upper country, had hostilities arisen (as we had until within these few days the greatest reason to suppose would be the case), our honour made the advance along with our allies imperative: such being the case, it was the first duty of the officer in command to take every possible means within his reach for the proper equipment of his force, in order that, for want of the means of transport, the men should not be exposed to hardships and loss from which their commander was bound to do his utmost to shield them.

11. Very considerable expense has been incurred in order to provide the brigade with the means of marching, but every possible care shall be taken that no unnecessary outlay is made. I have had everything to provide, but with the assistance of the squadron and the artisans in the brigade, a great part of the necessary material has been furnished from our own resources, and too great praise cannot be bestowed upon the officers and men of both services for the exertions they have made to provide the required equipment.

12. We have made all our own tents, fitted the battery of four Armstrong guns for service, and made all our harness for the mules, as well as several carts, pack-saddles, &c.; for the Mexicans having all left Vera Cruz, no work-people are to be procured, and no material of the kind required can be purchased here.

13. You will observe that in the preliminary Agreement between General Prim and General Doblado, which is approved by the Commissioners collectively (document No. 7), by Article 2 it is agreed that negotiations will be opened in Orizaba, and in Article 3 that the allied forces shall occupy the towns of Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan. These towns are on the direct road to the city of Mexico, and situated in the most healthy part of the country.

14. The sentiments that dictated Article 4 on both sides are so manifest that no especial remark is called for. In the event of negotiations being broken off, the allies agree to fall back behind the fortified positions to Paso Ancho, if on the Orizaba road, and to Paso de Ovegas, if on that of Jalapa; thus leaving the Mexicans free to re-occupy the passes of Chiquihuite and Puente Nacional.

* See Inclosure in No. 70.

15. Article 6 permits the Mexican flag to be hoisted beside that of the allies in Vera Cruz and San Juan d'Ulloa, upon the day that they commence their march to occupy the towns named in Article 3, but this privilege is merely an honorary one, as the allies will continue in sole military possession of both Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan, no Mexican troops being allowed to enter.

16. Since writing the above we have received the ratification of the Preliminary Agreement by President Juarez; the Mexican flag has been hoisted here, along with that of the allies, and the French force has marched for Tehuacan, which is about fifteen leagues beyond Orizaba; it was therefore desirable they should march first.

17. Both the Spaniards and French have suffered very much from sickness as well as ourselves, and the French have latterly lost several men from yellow fever; it would be most disastrous if that disease became general, and daily the danger of its becoming so increases. I therefore feel more and more the importance of speedily leaving Vera Cruz.

18. The Mexican flag having been hoisted here, a very small number of men will suffice for the performance of our share of the garrison duty, and as these men can be changed frequently, so as to expose them to a very short continuous residence on shore, I have little doubt that much sickness will be avoided.

19. It was determined by the Commissioners at a Conference held yesterday that the Custom-house should be restored to the Mexican authorities, upon their agreeing to the appointment of three Interventors (one of each nation) for the purpose of strictly superintending the distribution of the receipts which should be apportioned for the payment of the different assignments according to the Conventions acted on previous to the suspension of all payments by the Law of the 18th July last.

20. No discussion has yet taken place with reference to restoring the legal and municipal functions in Vera Cruz to the hands of the Mexicans, but the feeling among the Commissioners seems in favour of the step, the allies retaining the military government of the town.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

No. 84.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received April 1.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 31, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter, dated the 2nd instant, addressed by Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, reporting his intention of proceeding to Orizaba to be present at the opening of the negotiations between the Representatives of the Allied Powers and the Mexican Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

Sir,

"Challenger," Vera Cruz, March 2, 1862.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the Representatives of the three Allied Powers have named the 15th April as the day on which the negotiations with the representatives of the Mexican Government are to open in the city of Orizaba, and that this proposal has been agreed to on the part of the Government by General Doblado, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

As I am one of the British Commissioners, it will be my duty to proceed to Orizaba previous to the day named for opening the negotiations, and I shall leave the charge of the garrison of Vera Cruz and San Juan d'Ulloa, as well as the command of the squadron, with the senior officer, giving him directions to refer to me for instructions when requisite.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received April 1.)

Sir,

Admiralty, March 31, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter dated the 26th ultimo, addressed by Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, reporting his intention of embarking the battalion of Royal Marines in Mexico, and, as a sanitary measure, sending them to Bermuda.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

Sir,

"Challenger, at Vera Cruz, March 2, 1862.

I HAVE received by the mail which reached this yesterday the duplicates of your letters from the Secretary of the Admiralty, of the 21st and 24th January and the 1st February, with their several inclosures, in which, first, I am informed of the intention of the French Government to send out reinforcements of from 3,000 to 4,000 men under the command of General le Comte de Lorencey; secondly, that the French troops employed in the Mexican expedition are directed to march up the country within four-and-twenty hours after disembarking, and that I am to be instructed that the British Marines are not to go beyond Vera Cruz; and, thirdly, respecting the reported intention of a large body of Mexicans to invite the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian to place himself on the throne of Mexico, and Earl Russell's instructions to Sir Charles Wyke* on this reported movement, and that he should make no objection to the withdrawal of the Marines when the unhealthy season shall arrive.

2. With reference to the Marines, I have had the honour of laying before you, in my letter of the 26th February, the circumstances which have led to the position in which I am at present placed, and I trust both you and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will consider that the attitude in which the force under my command stands is one of sufficient dignity, and that our Allies cannot accuse us of seceding until it was evident a peaceful march into the interior was secured for them.

3. It has long been evident to both Sir Charles Wyke and myself that our Marines could not remain in Vera Cruz even so long as was anticipated by Her Majesty's Government, owing to the unusually unhealthy nature of the season, probably produced by the almost entire absence of the violent northern gales which blow at intervals between the months of October and April in the ordinary seasons; this consideration, along with others, induced us, in common with our colleagues, to feel much anxiety that we should be in a position as soon as possible to move the force (amicably if possible) to a more healthy climate. We consequently joined our colleagues in the various documents addressed to the Mexican Government, copies of which are annexed to my letter of the 24th ultimo.

4. At one period of the negotiations war seemed inevitable. Of course that was not the moment to shrink from the responsibility we had incurred, and it then became a point of honour with me (as upon me devolved the sole conduct of the military part of the British expedition) to provide immediately the means of transport for my men so as to enable them, if necessary, to take the field with credit to themselves and with honour to their country.

5. Since writing my letter relative to the steps taken to equip the force, the remainder of the transport has arrived by the packet, and the brigade of Marines are now ready and able, if required, to march from one end of Mexico to the other, and I trust I am not expressing myself improperly when I state that I feel proud that such should be the case, and that it is manifest to our allies; for, after the steps taken by the Commissioners collectively, had there been opposition on the part of the Mexicans to the advance into the interior of the country, I must have gone along with the allies until we had conquered all resistance.

6. The turn events have taken leaves the road open to the French and Spaniards to advance without danger, and in obedience to my orders I remain at Vera Cruz.

7. I have the honour to annex hereto a statistical Report of the sick from the time of our landing, and copy of a letter from the medical officer in charge of the brigade, from which you will see that I am forced to adopt the second alternative mentioned in paragraph 8 of my letter of the 24th ultimo, viz., a retreat to the shipping.

8. I shall embark all but two companies, which, with the assistance of the Marines of the squadron, will be quite sufficient for our portion of the allied garrison of Vera Cruz and San Juan d'Ulloa, and by keeping them but a short time continuously on shore, landing other men to relieve them as required, I hope they will escape from much sickness until the season is further advanced, or until I receive further instructions.

9. As soon as the other companies are embarked, I shall send them to Bermuda, as it would be most perilous to the health of the squadron to keep them crowded together at Sacrificios.

10. I shall send as many as she can safely stow at this season in the "Sanspareil," and the rest, probably, in the "Donegal."

11. On embarkation, the acting Staff appointments of which I had the honour to inform you in my letter of the 30th January last, will be cancelled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Mr. Elliot to Commodore Dunlop.

Sir

Royal Marine Brigade, Vera Cruz, March 3, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a Return of the number daily sick since the Royal Marine Brigade landed at Vera Cruz, on the 16th January, 1862.

I also beg to submit for your information the following remarks relative to the health of the troops and sanitary condition of Vera Cruz:—

On first landing the troops suffered from diarrhoea and slight febrile attacks. No deaths have taken place until the 9th February, when the disease assumed a dysenteric character, with typhoid complications; and up to this date nine deaths have taken place in the Brigade Hospital, and several more are now seriously ill. I sent on board Her Majesty's ship "Sanspareil," on the 14th, 15th, and 19th of February, 117 sick, who were suffering either from bowel disease, fever, or ulcer; and up to this date five deaths have taken place on board, but a great number are now convalescent.

I have 103 on the sick list to-day, either suffering from dysentery or fever, and a few from rheumatism or ulcers. Of that number, I expect to lose six or seven by deaths during the next few days. The total deaths up to this, including the men sent to the "Sanspareil," is fourteen.

I consider the cause of such a large sick-list and mortality is, in a great measure, to be attributed to the very bad sanitary arrangements of this town, every street having an open sewer, which, being exposed to a high range of temperature, are very offensive, and the atmosphere becomes so contaminated by the gaseous exhalations from these sewers that nothing can be more detrimental to the health of our troops, or more likely to produce disease.

As far as the barracks were concerned, I consider, with the exception of their being rather overcrowded at first landing, nothing could be kept cleaner, or greater attention paid to sanitary regulations.

I consider the water which the troops have been using in barracks perfectly good, it being tank-water collected during the rainy season; and the water used in hospital was taken from a cistern, which is said to be conveyed from a considerable distance in the country. I have analysed this water, and could not detect anything injurious.

All well-water in this town is brackish, and full of animalculæ and vegetable matter. It has never been used by our men for any other purpose than washing.

In conclusion, I consider the sanitary arrangements of Vera Cruz so defective, which no doubt will be increased by the approaching hot season, that unless the troops are removed to a more healthy locality a very large mortality must evidently ensue; as if, according to the Municipal Register of Vera Cruz, the inhabitants lose 12 per cent. when the town is kept clean, we must be prepared for a much greater mortality than people who are acclimated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ELLIOT, Surgeon, Marine Battalion.

Inclosure 3 in No. 85.

RETURN showing the Number Daily Sick, since the Royal Marine Brigade landed on the 16th January, 1862.

Date.	No. daily.	Remarks.	Date.	No. daily.	Remarks.
Jan. 17	17		Feb. 10	109	
" 18	22		" 11	114	
" 19	30		" 12	122	
" 20	40		" 13	128	
" 21	48		" 14	89	40 to "Sanspareil."
" 22	54	2 invalided.	" 15	78	40 to "Sanspareil" and 1 died in hospital.
" 23	58		" 16	87	
" 24	62		" 17	89	6 invalided and 1 died in hospital.
" 25	57		" 18	82	
" 26	58		" 19	57	37 to "Sanspareil."
" 27	68		" 20	62	
" 28	71		" 21	69	
" 29	67	2 invalided from "Sanspareil."	" 22	67	
" 30	87		" 23	72	3 deaths in hospital.
" 31	77		" 24	74	
Feb. 1	79		" 25	81	
" 2	71		" 26	92	
" 3	70		" 27	92	
" 4	60		" 28	86	1 died.
" 5	60		March 1	90	
" 6	54		" 2	95	1 death in hospital.
" 7	76		" 3	103	Ditto.
" 8	92				
" 9	94	1 death in hospital.			

(Signed)
Vera Cruz, March 4, 1862.

JOHN ELLIOTT, *Surgeon, Marine Brigade.*

No. 86.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 1, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government entirely approve the Convention signed by Count Reus and General Doblado at La Soledad on the 19th of February, and of which the particulars are given in your despatch of the 22nd of February last.

Her Majesty's Government had some doubts as to the policy of allowing the Mexican flag to be hoisted in the city and citadel of Vera Cruz; but as I observe you say that the allies retain military occupation and possession of both, Her Majesty's Government are not disposed to object to that Article.

Her Majesty's Government are glad to perceive that all the allied Commissioners agreed to ratify the Convention.

This Convention will, it is to be hoped, dispel the fears entertained that the allies intended to interfere in the internal affairs of Mexico, and which, it must be admitted, was too much countenanced by the imprudent language held regarding the "regeneration of Mexico."

It is to be hoped that this error will not be repeated. The Mexicans alone are the fit judges of the form of government suited to their position, and calculated to ensure their welfare.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 87.

Earl Russell to Sir C Wyke.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 1, 1862.

I HAVE to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have no wish to establish a foreign Protectorate in Mexico, or to send troops thither for that purpose.

Such a Protectorate, though undertaken with the most benevolent views, would soon

become odious to the people of Mexico, and might be engaged in a conflict with one or other of the political parties which divide that country.

Her Majesty's Government trust, as you have well expressed it in your despatch of the 23rd of February, that Mexico, under the administration of General Doblado, will be able to right itself. Her Majesty's Government desire nothing better.

No. 88.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received April 2.)

Sir,

Admiralty, April 1, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter dated the 4th March, from Commodore Dunlop, relative to the question of establishing a monarchy in Mexico, and calling the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian to the throne.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Commodore Dunlop to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne.

Sir,

"Challenger," Vera Cruz, March 4, 1862.

WITH reference to a letter to you from the Secretary of the Admiralty, relative to a large party in Mexico being in favour of a monarchical form of government, and that there is an intention of calling the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian to the throne, I have the honour to inform you that the subject having been mentioned to me by Vice-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, when I first met him at Havana, I have taken every means in my power to ascertain whether there are any good grounds for supposing that any influential party in Mexico is in favour of a monarchy, and the information I have obtained from the best sources within my reach leads me to suppose that the only party in Mexico at all in favour of a monarchy is the Church Party, and that, merely because it sees no other prospect whatever of regaining influence over the Mexican people.

2. The Church Party embraces all that is bigoted and fanatical in the country, and is therefore retrogressive in policy, and at variance with the spirit of the age: and it is detested by the great majority of the people, who are in favour of a liberal policy.

3. If the question was, what form of government would most conduce to the welfare of Mexico, by the establishment of order and a permanent state of things, there can be no doubt that a constitutional monarchy is the one most likely to have central power sufficient to enable it to consolidate the nation, perhaps the only form of government that would give much hope of such a result. But as the question is not what is best for Mexico, but what are the wishes of the Mexican people, I fear that the answer must be that the great mass of the intelligent population are in favour of Republican institutions.

4. Many well-educated and intelligent individuals who stand well in society are monarchical in their opinions from a well-grounded desire for a strong government, but these people are unfortunately timid, and passive in action, ready to accept what is done for them, but incapable of doing anything to bring about what they say they desire.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

No. 89.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 2, 1862.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, copies of the despatches which I have received by the last mail from Sir Charles Wyke, reporting proceedings up to the 1st of March, and copies of two despatches which I have addressed to him in reply.*

* Nos. 65, 66, 67, 74, 76, 86, and 87.

Your Excellency will see that Her Majesty's Government approve of the Articles of Agreement entered into by General Prim with General Doblado, and subsequently accepted by the allied Commissioners at Vera Cruz on the one hand, and by the Mexican Government on the other.

Her Majesty's Government have been influenced in this respect by the following considerations:—

1st. The Articles contain a distinct disclaimer of an intention on the part of the allied Powers to interfere in the internal affairs of Mexico, and therefore not only renounce the pretension to do so which was in the first instance injudiciously put forward by the allied Commissioners as the main object of the expedition, but record again the determination of the three Powers set forth in the Tripartite Convention of the 31st of October last, "not to exercise in the internal affairs of Mexico any influence of a nature to prejudice the right of the Mexican nation to choose and to constitute freely the form of its Government."

2ndly. Because the Articles not only put a stop to measures against Mexico partaking of the character of active hostility, and replace the questions between the allies and the Mexican Government on the footing of the Convention, by which redress of past wrong, and security against a renewal of wrong by means of negotiation, or by measures of coercion and occupation short of active conflict, were contemplated, but also provide for the health of the allied troops, which appears to have already severely suffered. Further losses by disease would probably have placed them in a very critical position. They might have had to contend, not only with active hostility on the part of the Mexican forces, but with the still more dangerous enmity of a climate becoming more pestilential as the season advanced. Nor does it appear that the troops, in case of hostilities, are to return to Vera Cruz. They are to return only to the opening of the defiles which are the chief defence of the city of Mexico, with the advantage of knowing the ground, and the best mode of carrying the entrenchments by force.

Lastly. Her Majesty's Government have had less hesitation in approving the Agreement entered into by General Prim, inasmuch as it appears that the consent of the Commissioners to allow the Mexican flag to be displayed on the forts of Vera Cruz and of San Juan d'Ulloa does not involve a joint Mexican occupation of those positions, which remain, on the contrary, under the exclusive military authority and control of the allied forces.

Her Majesty's Government trust that, as the errors which marked the first proceedings of the allied Commissioners will no longer stand in the way of an adjustment of the points that it was the real object of the Convention of the 31st of October to secure, a satisfactory agreement on those points may shortly be arrived at, and in that case no further measures of coercion against Mexico will become necessary. We may thus obtain, by negotiation, an occupation of the ports, and such guarantees as were originally contemplated by the allies in the Convention of the 31st of October, as a necessary security for the due fulfilment by the Mexican Government of the conditions to which they might be brought to agree.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 90.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 2, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Moniteur" of this day, a paragraph from the "Bulletin," denying that the Imperial Government had demanded the recall of General Prim from Mexico, and stating that they had merely disapproved of the Convention concluded by him and accepted by the allied Plenipotentiaries, and that M. de Saligny had consequently been entrusted, alone, with the full powers which had been given to Admiral Jurien.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Extract from the "Moniteur" of April 2, 1862.

LES journaux Espagnols prétendent que le Gouvernement de l'Empereur a demandé au Cabinet de Madrid le rappel du Général Prim. Cette nouvelle est entièrement controuvée. Le Gouvernement de l'Empereur s'est borné à désapprouver la Convention conclue avec le Général Mexicain Doblado par le Général Prim, et acceptée ensuite par les Plénipotentiaires des Puissances alliées, parce que cette Convention lui a semblé contraire à la dignité de la France.

En conséquence, M. de Saligny a été seul chargée des pleins pouvoirs politiques dont le Vice-Amiral Jurien de la Gravière était revêtu, et cet officier général a reçu l'ordre de reprendre simplement le commandement de la division navale.

(Translation.)

THE Spanish journals pretend that the Government of the Emperor has demanded of the Cabinet of Madrid the recall of General Prim. This intelligence is an entire fabrication. The Government of the Emperor has confined itself to disapproving the Convention concluded with the Mexican General Doblado by General Prim, and accepted subsequently by the Plenipotentiaries of the allied Powers, because that Convention appears to it contrary to the dignity of France.

In consequence, M. de Saligny has been alone charged with the full powers which had been conferred on Vice-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, and that officer has received orders to return to the command of the Naval Division.

No. 91.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 3, 1862.

I HAVE laid before Earl Russell your several letters of the 31st ultimo, inclosing copies of letters from Commodore Dunlop reporting his proceedings in Mexico; and I am, in reply, to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that although Commodore Dunlop neglected his instructions, yet, in the peculiar circumstances in which he was placed, his readiness to march with the Marines aided the negotiations of Sir C. Wyke, and tended to maintain the reputation of the British arms.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 92.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 10, 1862.

IT would seem from your telegram of the 9th instant that the French Ambassador at Madrid has alluded to a report to the effect that Her Majesty's Government disapproved of the Agreement commonly called the Convention of Soledad, entered into by the Commissioners of the Allied Powers and the Mexican Government; and that the French Ambassador at Madrid is also under the impression that the Spanish Government likewise disapproves of it.

Marshal O'Donnell, on the contrary, assures you that so far from that being the case as regards the Spanish Government, that Government, although it would have wished that some of the provisions of the Agreement had been otherwise worded, yet on the whole approved of it; and the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires has, indeed, read to me a despatch to General Prim to that effect.

On the other hand, as you will have seen by my telegram of the 2nd instant and of this day, Her Majesty's Government agree substantially in the view taken of the Agreement by the Cabinet of Madrid; they consider that the Agreement replaces matters on the footing set forth in the Convention of the 31st of October, and rectifies the false step taken at the outset, by the Commissioners of the Allied Powers, in assuming that the regeneration of Mexico was the main object of the expedition, rather than the

reparation of wrongs done by Mexico to the subjects of the allies in their persons and properties.

I have stated in the despatch to Earl Cowley of which I inclose a copy,* the above among other grounds on which Her Majesty's Government have approved of the Agreement entered into by the Commissioners and the Mexican Government. Her Majesty's Government desire to adhere strictly to the terms of the Convention of October 31, and they trust that a stable Government, willing and able to respect international engagements, may be established in Mexico without any interference on the part of the Allied Powers either to set it on foot or to uphold it.

Since beginning this despatch I have seen Señor Gonzalez, the new Minister from Spain, who also assures me that the Soledad Convention and the conduct of General Prim are approved by his Government.

He added that he trusted the Spanish and British Governments would act in entire accordance in Mexico, in which sentiment I cordially concurred.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 93.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 12, 1862.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency, that I have had some conversation with the Secretary of Legation of the Spanish Mission, then Chargé d'Affaires, on the state of affairs in Mexico, and the prospects of Monarchy in that country.

He told me there were some among the higher class in the great towns who were in favour of Monarchy, seeing how quiet and orderly had been the state of Brazil. But the great body of the middle classes, amounting to about 2,000,000, were strongly attached to Republican institutions. The remainder of the population, of 5,000,000, were chiefly Indians, were in the lowest state of ignorance, and scarcely knew that the old dominion of Spain had ceased to exist.

The Spanish Minister, Señor Gonzalez, who has lately arrived, tells me that the Spanish Government wish to respect the wishes of the Mexicans, whatever they may be. He believed that a Monarchical party in Mexico scarcely existed; he had seen a letter from Vera Cruz when he was passing through Paris, which affirmed that Almonte had not been joined by any one, and that as for the Archduke, he was not spoken of at all.

He admitted that the Mexican emigrants at Paris believed in the possibility of a Monarchy, but it was, he said, altogether an illusion, and had no root in the attachments or ideas of the Mexican people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 94.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received April 16.)

My Lord,

Madrid, April 10, 1862.

A DEBATE has taken place in the Spanish Cortes on the affairs of Mexico, of which I have the honour to inclose a report.

It arose on the proposition of Señor Castro, a deputy of the "Moderado" Opposition, "that the Congress of Deputies would be pleased to declare its decided support to the Government of the Queen in carrying out an active and efficacious policy in Mexico, in order that without failing in observance of the letter and spirit of the Treaties, the moral and material interests of Spain and America should be satisfied and preserved."

Señor Castro developed his proposition at considerable length, and criticised, generally, the policy of the Spanish Government, and the acts of its Agents in regard to the principle of their intervention in the affairs of Mexico, and the manner in which the expedition against that country has hitherto been managed.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs replied by declining to enter upon a general discussion of the policy of the Government in the Mexican question at the present period

of the affair, as being incompatible with the public interests. His Excellency, however, in a speech of considerable length, replied to some of the objections put forward by Señor Castro, and advocated the course which had been hitherto pursued by the Spanish Government.

Señor Calderon, in the course of his speech, stated distinctly that the Government approved of the Convention of Soledad, and of General Prim's conduct; and although he could not conceal that the French Government judged the Convention of Soledad unfavourably, he maintained that this had not given rise to any serious misunderstanding between Her Catholic Majesty's Government and that of France, any more than the same difference of opinion had caused misunderstanding between Her Britannic Majesty's Government and that of France; and that consequently the general harmony between the views of the three Governments remained undisturbed.

Señor Castro's proposition was rejected by 138 to 39 votes.

As the length of this debate renders it impossible to have a translation of it *in extenso* made in time to be transmitted to your Lordship's office by the present opportunity, I have caused such parts of it only to be translated as bear more particularly upon the points to which I have above alluded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Extracts from M. Calderon Collantes' Speech in the Chamber of Deputies on the 9th of April, 1862.

(Translation.)

I NOW naturally come to my answer to the principal question contained in M. Castro's discourse, because the Honourable Deputy's speech may be reduced to one point.

Preliminaries have been signed and agreed to in Soledad, gentlemen, in order to hold some Conferences which will lead to peace or war, to the breaking out of hostilities, to the dictation of terms with the point of the sword, or to an amicable settlement of existing differences.

The Honourable member says the French Government have disapproved of these Preliminaries; the French Government, he goes on to say, have declared that they contain clauses contrary to the dignity of France. Have we not a right, he says, we, the Deputies of the nation, has not the whole nation a right to know what the opinion of the Government is on this matter? Ah! yes, Sir! have the Government ever denied this right? Have the Government ever refused to reply to questions on matters which have already taken place, or with respect to the determinations they may have given rise to?

M. Castro stated, at the same time, that the strong and powerful English Government had approved of the Preliminaries of Soledad, and that the Spanish Government had not stated their opinion to the Cortes, and that public opinion is unacquainted with the determination they may have come to.

Well then, gentlemen, I say here that Her Majesty's Government have approved of the conduct of General Prim and the Preliminaries of Soledad. The terms used, and all the ideas which have presented themselves in the course of the communications which have taken place, and which will hereafter take place, between the Plenipotentiary and Her Majesty's Government—the words employed by him and sent to him, shall all be contained in the documents which the Government will in due time present to the Cortes, in that the House may examine attentively every phrase and idea, however unimportant, which they contain.

But in the meantime, with every respect for the opinions which a Government with which we are on the most friendly terms, and with which we continue, and hope always to continue, the most friendly relations, may have had on this head, we have considered General Prim's conduct to have had a useful and patriotic end, and the Preliminaries of Soledad have been approved.

Her Majesty's Government cannot at this moment say what they will do—they can only say one thing. So far, the Commander-in-chief of the expeditionary forces and Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen has fulfilled his mission by serving the interests of his country in a worthy manner, and in a manner to be expected from his past services and sentiments: the Government are convinced he will continue to serve with the same loyalty and execute the orders they may give him.

There was another question connected with the above-mentioned one in M. Castro's speech; but is it necessary that I should reply to it? Her Majesty's Government have only to make an unnecessary statement to the House, however, in order to avoid a shadow of anxiety, and to remove all doubt from the minds of all they will do so. The friendly and allied Governments whose forces have gone to Mexico are quite united, and the friendship which existed at the Convention of London and during the acts which followed has not until now, and I hope never will be, disturbed. I beg the Deputies, and I advise the public, to be very careful what they believe on this head, because patriotism does not always get the mastery over private feelings, and for this reason stories are often believed with great facility which may lead to difficulties if not to conflicts.

No. 95.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received April 16.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, April 11, 1862.

SEÑOR CALDERON COLLANTES has repeated to me that the Spanish Government approve of the Convention of Soledad, and agree in the opinion expressed to me on the subject by your Lordship in your telegram of yesterday's date.

I did not fail to say that Her Majesty's Government have no wish to establish a foreign Protectorate in Mexico. Señor Calderon replied that the Spanish Government concurred in this view; and remarked in regard to the establishment of a Monarchy under the Archduke Maximilian, that the announcement of this idea by the French Government, however guarded by the declaration that they would not interfere to support His Imperial Highness as a candidate for the Crown, had in reality been the source of all the misunderstanding which had arisen between the French Commissioners and those of England and Spain.

No. 96.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Madrid, April 13, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a summary of the views of the Spanish Government in regard to the Convention of Soledad.

Your Lordship will perceive from the note from Señor Collantes, in which this document was transmitted to me last night, and of which a translation is also inclosed herewith, that this summary contains the substance of the despatch addressed by the Spanish Government to General Prim, and is the document which was communicated to the French Ambassador at this Court.

Señor Calderon Collantes states, however, that it contains all the opinions laid down in that despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

Summary of the Views of the Spanish Government in regard to the Convention of Soledad.

(Translation.)

Madrid, March 23, 1862.

THE Queen's Government consider that the complications and difficulties which have arisen in Mexico are owing to the demands of the three Powers not having been made in the first instance, of which the Spanish Plenipotentiary was not the cause; that the first clause of the Preliminaries, giving the Government of Juarez a moral force which it did not possess, might have been omitted; that the fourth clause is explained by reasons of military honour, and the Mexicans themselves making a suitable return for the extreme generosity with which they were treated ought to have given it up.

The last of the conditions made at the Conferences of Orizaba is the one which appears the least justified. Nevertheless, the Queen's Government, while addressing to General Prim, Count of Reus, the necessary remarks respecting it, and the conciliatory spirit which has directed all the Plenipotentiaries, order him decisively to act with the

greatest promptitude and energy, setting aside every system of temporisation, if the result of the Conferences should not be completely satisfactory.

The next mail will inform us of that result, and until then every decision would be premature and hazardous.

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

Señor Collantes to Sir J. Crampton.

(Translation.)

My dear Sir,

(No date.)

I HAVE the pleasure to transmit to you the summary of the opinions of the Government of Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Preliminaries of Soledad.

The note which I inclose is a copy of the one with which I furnished the French Ambassador after having dictated the despatch sent to General Prim, and it consequently contains all the opinions laid down in that document.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) S. CALDERON COLLANTES.

No. 97.

Earl Russell to Sir J. Crampton.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 19, 1862.

WITH reference to the withdrawal of the British Marines from Mexico, I have to instruct you to explain to Señor Calderon Collantes that the Marines sent to Mexico were originally intended to assist in the capture of Vera Cruz; that they properly belong to Her Majesty's naval forces, and have no tents or equipments to enable them to make a campaign by land; that when hostilities appeared imminent, Commodore Dunlop took upon himself to go beyond the orders he had received, but that when the Convention of Soledad removed the apprehensions of a conflict, he obeyed the orders which had on repeated occasions been given to him.

Her Majesty's Government entirely agree with the Government of Spain with reference to Mexico, and are quite prepared to accept a Convention, giving reparation for the wrongs complained of by the three allied Powers.

If Mexico were spontaneously to proclaim a Monarchy, Her Majesty's Government would recognize a Government which would thus become regular and legitimate. But failing such a demonstration in Mexico, Her Majesty's Government are quite ready to negotiate with the existing authority, which seems to have the assent and the support of the Mexican people.

No. 98.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 21, 1862.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a summary of the opinion of the Spanish Government on the Convention of Soledad,* which has been communicated by Señor Calderon Collantes to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, and also, as it would seem, to the French Ambassador.

This summary contains the substance of the despatch to General Prim which Señor Conte, the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, read to me. But in the last sentence of the instruction to General Prim it was implied, rather than expressed, that if the reasonable demands of the allies were not assented to, the Spanish Government would infer that the Government of Juarez was one with which it was impossible to treat.

At the same time it was to be understood from the Spanish instruction that the Convention of Soledad was not to be set aside, and that the demands of the allies were to be laid before the Mexican Commissioners for their assent or refusal.

But Her Majesty's Government have never yet heard from the Government of the Emperor whether the Convention of Soledad is considered by France to be binding, or whether it is to be disavowed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

* Inclosure 1 in No. 98.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received April 26.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 25, 1862.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 21st instant, stating that although Her Majesty's Government had been informed of the opinion of the Spanish Government with reference to the Convention of Soledad, they had never heard from the French Government whether that Convention is considered by them to be binding or whether it is to be disavowed; I have the honour to say that having brought this matter before M. Thouvenel yesterday, his Excellency replied that although the Imperial Government disapproved the Convention in question they could not dispute its validity. If, then, the negotiations between the allied Commissioners and the Mexican Government should be broken off, its provisions must be strictly observed. M. Thouvenel intimated further that the Commissioners would have to decide the moment when the negotiations should be broken off, if at all; whereupon the Convention signed in London on the 31st October last would naturally be the guide for their future proceedings.

M. Dubois de Saligny is now the sole French Commissioner. General Lorencez has no diplomatic powers.

M. Thouvenel took occasion to observe that the French Government had no pretensions to put forward in Mexico beyond the satisfaction of their legitimate grievances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 100.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, March 5, 1862.

IN our fourteenth Conference, held the 26th of February, General Prim communicated to us the ratification by President Juarez of the Preliminaries of Soledad; he at the same time read to us a letter from General Doblado requesting us to return the Custom-house of Vera Cruz to the Mexican authorities subject to certain concessions on their part, and asking us to fix the day for the commencement of the Conferences of the Allied Commissioners with the Mexican Plenipotentiaries at Orizaba.

General Prim was authorized by us to state in reply, that the Conferences at Orizaba might commence on the 15th of April next, and that the Custom-house of Vera Cruz would be given over to the Mexican authorities on the following conditions:—

1. That instead of one Interventor there should be three, one of each of the allied nations, and that these posts should be filled by the respective Consuls.

2. That instead of putting aside 50 per cent. of the produce of the Custom-house for the payment of foreign credits, matters should be placed in the *statu quo* they were in before the Law of July 17th last, suspending the payments due from the Custom-houses; the assignments due to foreign creditors by Treaty stipulations having amounted at that period to about 77 per cent. of the produce of the Customs, of which 59 per cent. belonged to English creditors.

3. That the provisions and other articles required for the use of the allied for e should be exempt from the payment of duties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 101.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Vera Cruz, March 6, 1862.

THE fifteenth Conference was held for the purpose of formally handing over the Vera Cruz Custom-house to the Mexican authorities, but on the same morning couriers arrived from the city of Mexico informing me that the Government was again endeavouring to levy the obnoxious tax on capital which had before given rise to such an outcry amongst the foreign residents, and that they were actually proceeding to embargo the property of all such persons as resisted the payment of the tax.

Under these circumstances I pointed out to my colleagues that we ought not to return the Custom-house to a Government showing so little consideration for our fellow-subjects, and that as far as I was concerned, I could not consent to such a measure until the Government desisted from levying a tax which, now that we have entered into friendly negotiations with them, could not in any way be justified.

The Spanish and French Commissioners fully agreeing with me, a communication to this effect was addressed to the Government, and our last Conference in Vera Cruz was closed by the resolution to retain the Custom-house for the present, and to give to our Interventors the same salary as is allowed to the "Oficial Mayor" of the establishment, amounting to about 3,000 dollars a year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 102.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, March 10, 1862.

ON the 26th ultimo Admiral Jurien de la Gravière left Vera Cruz with the French troops *en route* for the town of Tehuacan, leaving M. de Saligny to represent France at any further Conferences that might take place before the departure of the Commissioners for the interior.

On the morning of the 5th General Prim left with the Spanish troops for the towns of Cordova and Orizaba, and on the 7th I also left Vera Cruz for this place, which I reached on the afternoon of the 10th.

Commodore Dunlop and M. de Saligny are still at the port, where they will remain until after the arrival of the mail from England, when they will come up here to attend the Conferences with the Mexican Plenipotentiaries, which will begin on the 15th proximo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 103.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, March 27, 1862.

IN my despatch of the 6th instant I informed your Lordship that at the last Conference held before leaving Vera Cruz, it was resolved not to return the Vera Cruz Custom-house to the Mexican authorities so long as the Government continued to attempt levying the obnoxious tax on capital.

Since that time I have corresponded privately with Señor Doblado on this subject, the result of which correspondence was his sending down here the Ministers of Finance and Justice to confer with General Prim and myself on a matter which threatened to bring about an open rupture between ourselves and the Government if they continued a line of conduct so detrimental to the interests of our respective fellow-subjects.

After various conversations with the two Ministers, in which they obstinately maintained the right of their Government to levy whatever taxes they chose to impose, they finally gave way, and agreed no longer to persist in carrying out a measure to which we were so unanimously opposed.

As soon as our colleagues come up from Vera Cruz, this decision will be officially communicated to them, in order that our original resolution with respect to the Custom-house may be carried into effect, as our retaining it any longer than is absolutely necessary only results in the most serious inconvenience to the whole commercial body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

(Extract.)

Orizaba, March 27, 1862.

IN my last month's correspondence I fully explained the circumstances which led to the preliminary Convention of La Soledad, by which the allied troops were permitted to occupy the towns of Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan, until the commencement of and pending the negotiations between ourselves and the Mexican Government, which are to commence on the 15th of next month. The Spanish and French troops are already located in these towns, where they would have remained as agreed on had it not been for the following circumstance.

General Almonte, late Mexican Minister in Paris, and now considered as the Chief of the Reactionary Party here, arrived at Vera Cruz by last month's mail from Europe. As he is exiled from the country for his political opinions, he could not leave the walls of the town, where he received, as long as he remained in it, the protection of the allied forces. Whilst there he joined naturally enough the remnant of Miramon's partizans, who enjoyed the same protection as himself on similar conditions.

As long as things remained in this state no harm was done, but after the departure of General Prim and myself, General Almonte and his friends formed the project of penetrating into the interior of the country under the protection of the French troops. This I am sorry to say was afforded to them by General Lorencez, with whom they all came up to Cordova a few days ago.

On Commodore Dunlop becoming aware of what had occurred, he remonstrated with M. de Saligny, who replied that General de Lorencez was acting in this matter, as far as General Almonte was concerned, under direct orders from the Emperor.

On the arrival at this place of General Lorencez, both the Conde de Reus and myself pointed out to him the evil effects likely to ensue from his having taken such a step, which neither General Prim nor myself could approve of; for we considered it as a violation of that neutrality which we were all bound to observe by the stipulations of the Convention of the 31st of October last.

General de Lorencez, instead of saying anything about the Emperor's orders to which M. de Saligny had referred, at once expressed his regret at having done that which he now saw would so gravely compromise our good faith with the Mexican Government, and offered to send the party back again to Vera Cruz. In the meantime Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, thinking that such orders had really been given to General Lorencez, wrote from Tehuacan to the Conde de Reus announcing the arrival of General Almonte under French protection.

I herewith transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of a correspondence between General Prim and myself on the one side, and the Admiral on the other, by which you will perceive the serious mischief likely to arise from the French Agents here having adopted a line of conduct which both the Conde de Reus (General Prim) and myself consider a direct departure from the strictly impartial conduct that both they and ourselves were bound to observe.

It is by avoiding bloodshed, and getting our intervention to be looked at in the light of a friendly protectorate, that we can alone succeed in obtaining the object of our mission, when we should rally all the really sensible and good people in the country around us, and, with their aid, be enabled to consolidate a Government representing the intelligence and respectability of the nation.

It is not by openly supporting the Reactionary faction and rekindling a civil war, that a Monarchy can be established here; for such a change can only be brought about at the desire of a large and influential party in the country, determined to adopt that form of government of their own free will, and without having it imposed on them by foreign bayonets. Such a party has yet to be found, for at present it certainly does not exist, or it would have given some signs of life during the last three months that the allies have occupied a portion of the Mexican territory with a large armed force.

As the Convention of the 31st of October last distinctly binds the High Contracting Parties not to interfere in any way with the right of the Mexican nation freely to choose and consolidate its own form of government, I cannot but deplore that the French Agents here should have thought fit to extend their protection to the Chiefs of a party now in open rebellion against that Government which the Mexican nation has elected, and which those very Agents have recognized by entering into negotiations with at the same time as ourselves.

Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, by adopting a separate line of action without

consulting us, in withdrawing his troops from Tehuacan and predicting the probable failure of our forthcoming negotiations with the Mexican Government, has seriously damaged our position and considerably lessened that chance of success which it was reasonable to suppose would have attended our combined action in a matter equally affecting the interests of all parties concerned.

I herewith inclose a copy of a letter which the Admiral addressed, on the 26th instant, to the Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which his Excellency states his reasons for the line of conduct he has thought fit to adopt.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Sir C. Wyke and the Count de Reus to Vice-Admiral de la Gravière.

Orizaba, ce 23 Mars, 1862.

LES Soussignés, Commissaires Diplomatiques de Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, ont l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de son Excellence l'Amiral Jurien de la Gravière, qu'en vue de l'attitude prise par la partie Française de l'expédition alliée et du caractère des résolutions adoptées par les Chefs Français non conformes aux stipulations de la Convention de Londres, ils croient qu'une entrevue des Représentants des trois Puissances est non seulement opportune mais indispensable.

Les Plénipotentiaires d'Angleterre et d'Espagne prie donc avec instance son Excellence M. l'Amiral Jurien de la Gravière de vouloir bien se rendre à Orizaba le plutôt possible; et aujourd'hui même ils adressent une semblable prière à M. de Saligny pour avoir une Conférence afin que les explications auxquelles elle donnera lieu servent à fixer la conduite que tous de commun accord ou chacun séparément, si l'accord n'est pas possible, doivent tenir dorénavant.

Les Soussignés, &c.

C. LENNOX WYKE.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

(Translation.)

Orizaba, March 23, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Diplomatic Commissioners of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, have the honour to make known to his Excellency Admiral Jurien de la Gravière that with reference to the attitude assumed by the French portion of the allied expedition, and to the character of the resolutions adopted by the French Commanders, not in conformity with the stipulations of the Convention of London, they consider that a meeting of the Representatives of the three Powers is not only opportune, but indispensable.

The Representatives of England and of Spain therefore earnestly request his Excellency Admiral Jurien de la Gravière to be so good as to visit Orizaba as soon as possible; and this very day they address the same request to M. de Saligny, to hold a Conference in order that the explanations for which it will afford an opportunity may serve to determine the conduct which all of one accord, or each separately in case agreement should not be possible, are to hold for the future.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to Sir C. Wyke and the Count de Reus.

Tehuacan, le 24 Mars, 1862.

LE Soussigné, Commandant-en-chef des forces expéditionnaires Françaises au Mexique, et Plénipotentiaire Spécial de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, a l'honneur de faire connaître à leurs Excellences MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, qu'il s'empressera de déférer au désir qu'ils veulent bien lui exprimer de le voir à Orizaba aussitôt qu'il aura pris les dispositions nécessaires pour assurer le mouvement rétrograde de ses troupes vers le Chiquihuite.

Par suite de la lenteur des communications entre le Mexique et l'Europe, des

incidents imprévus sont venus modifier profondément l'état de choses qu'avait créé la Convention de la Soledad. Mais il est un devoir que le Soussigné ne saurait méconnaître, c'est celui d'exécuter loyalement les stipulations en vertu desquelles lui a été ouvert l'accès du plateau où se trouvent en ce moment établies ces troupes.

D'accord sur ce point avec leurs Excellences les Commissaires de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne et de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, il n'admet pas qu'il lui soit permis de se prévaloir de cette Convention pour créer le moindre embarras au Gouvernement actuel du Mexique. Des hommes honorables et investis de la confiance du Gouvernement de l'Empereur sont venus à Vera Cruz avec la mission de faire comprendre à leurs compatriotes le but tout pacifique de notre intervention. En vertu d'instructions directement transmises au Général commandant le corps expéditionnaire, ces hommes ont obtenu la protection de notre drapeau. Le Soussigné ne peut que ratifier ce qui a été fait à cet égard sans sa participation.

La seule chose qu'il lui reste à faire c'est de dégager le plus tôt possible sa signature d'un acte qui ne semble plus de nature à recevoir l'approbation de son Gouvernement. Aux termes de la Convention de la Soledad le Soussigné, laissant ses hôpitaux sous la garde de la nation Mexicaine, va donc s'empresse de faire retrograder ses troupes au delà des positions fortifiées du Chiquihuite. Une fois sur ce terrain il ne s'en montrera pas moins modéré, mais il sera plus libre. La France, il en est convaincu, ne mettra jamais au Mexique ses armes au service d'aucun parti. Elle se bornera, le jour où les hostilités devront se rouvrir, à accepter le concours de tous les Mexicains qui auront confiance dans ses bonnes intentions et dans l'intervention Européenne.

Il serait probablement sans intérêt de réunir de nouveau la Conférence avant l'arrivée des nouvelles que doit nous apporter le prochain courrier attendu d'Europe. Ce n'est point d'ailleurs avant cette époque que M. Dubois de Saligny, Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté l'Empereur au même titre que le Commandant-en-chef des forces Françaises, pourra, vu l'état de sa santé, se trouver à Orizaba. D'ici là le mouvement des troupes que le Soussigné doit continuer à diriger aura pu recevoir un commencement d'exécution, et le Gouvernement Mexicain aura été ainsi édifié sur la scrupuleuse fidélité avec laquelle le Soussigné entend remplir ses engagements.

Si ce Gouvernement, comprenant ses véritables intérêts, se déclarait prêt, dès aujourd'hui, à proclamer une amnistie complète, absolue, sans conditions et sans réserves ; s'il s'en remettait aux Plénipotentiaires des hautes Puissances du soin d'examiner et de régler de concert le meilleur mode à suivre pour consulter le vœu sincère et véritable du pays, le Soussigné serait prêt à se rendre à Mexico avec ses troupes pour y protéger la paix publique, au nom des trois Puissances signataires de la Convention du 31 Octobre. Il croit, et si ses souvenirs sont fidèles cette opinion ne peut manquer d'être partagée par ses collègues, que des troupes Françaises seraient accueillies avec moins d'ombrage dans la capitale du Mexique que d'autres troupes contre lesquelles les partis n'hésiteraient pas à invoquer d'injustes et regrettables préjugés. Si cette proposition avait quelque chance d'être admise par le Gouvernement Mexicain, le Soussigné ne doute pas qu'elle ne reçût l'approbation des Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne et de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, puisqu'elle tendrait à préserver le Mexique des calamités de la guerre et à reserrer les liens d'une alliance d'où doit inévitablement sortir pour ce pays un meilleur avenir.

S'il n'a point reçu avant le 1 Avril une réponse favorable à cette proposition, le Soussigné devra mettre, au terme qu'il a fixé, ses troupes en mouvement, afin de ne point s'exposer à compromettre leur santé par de nouveaux retards.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé)

E. JURIEN.

(Translation.)

Tehuacan, March 24, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Commander-in-chief of the expeditionary French forces in Mexico, and Special Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, has the honour to make known to their Excellencies the Commissioners of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, that he will hasten to meet the wish which they have been so good as to express to him to see him at Orizaba, as soon as he shall have made the arrangements necessary to secure the retirement of his troops towards Chiquihuite.

In consequence of the slowness of communications between Mexico and Europe, unforeseen events have occurred to modify considerably the state of things created by the Convention of Soledad. There is, however, a duty which the Undersigned cannot ignore, and that is the frank execution of the stipulations in virtue of which access has been opened to him to the position in which his troops are at the present moment established.

Being of the same opinion on this point as their Excellencies the Commissioners of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, he does not admit that he is at liberty to avail himself of that Convention in order to create the slightest embarrassment to the existing Government of Mexico. Honourable men, and persons enjoying the confidence of the Government of the Emperor, have come to Mexico with the mission to make their countrymen understand the completely peaceful object of our intervention. In virtue of instructions addressed directly to the General commanding the expeditionary corps, these men have obtained the protection of our flag. The Undersigned cannot do otherwise than ratify what has been done in this respect without his participation.

The only thing which remains for him to do is to withdraw, as soon as possible, his signature from an act which no longer appears of a nature to receive the approval of his Government. In conformity with the Convention of Soledad, the Undersigned, leaving his hospitals under the guardianship of the Mexican nation, will therefore hasten to cause his troops to retire beyond the fortified positions of Chiquihuite. When once this position is taken he will not be the less moderate, but the more free. France, he is convinced, will never, in Mexico, place her arms at the service of any party. She will confine herself, at the time when hostilities must be resumed, to accepting the concurrence of all Mexicans who may feel confidence in his good intentions and in the European intervention.

It would probably be of no avail to reunite afresh the Conference before the arrival of the intelligence which the next courier expected from Europe must bring to us. It will not, moreover, be at an earlier date that M. Dubois de Saligny, Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor, with similar powers as the Commander-in-chief of the French forces, will be able, considering the state of his health, to go to Orizaba. In the interval, the movement of troops, which the Undersigned must continue to direct, may possibly have commenced to be put in execution, and the Mexican Government may thus have learnt the scrupulous fidelity with which the Undersigned knows how to fulfil his engagements.

If that Government, understanding its true interests, should declare itself ready at once to proclaim a complete and absolute amnesty, unaccompanied by conditions or reserves; if it would commit to the Plenipotentiaries of the High Powers the care to examine and to determine, in concert, the best course to be pursued with a view to consult the sincere and true wishes of the country; the Undersigned would be ready to proceed to Mexico with his troops to protect public peace in the name of the three Powers parties to the Convention of the 31st of October. He believes, and if his recollection is correct the opinion cannot fail to be shared by his colleagues, that French troops would be received with less offence in the Mexican capital than other troops against whom parties would not hesitate to bring forward unjust and deplorable accusations. Should this proposition have any chance of being admitted by the Mexican Government, the Undersigned does not doubt but that it would receive the approbation of the Plenipotentiaries of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, since it would tend to preserve Mexico from the calamities of war, and to strengthen the bonds of an alliance from which a more prosperous future for this country would inevitably result.

If he has not received a favourable reply to this proposal before the 1st of April, the Undersigned must put his troops in motion at the date which he has specified, in order not to expose himself to a compromise of their health by fresh delays.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) E. JURIEN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 104.

Sir C. Wyke to Vice-Admiral de la Gravière.

M. l'Amiral,

Orizaba, March 27, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's communication dated the 24th instant, being a reply to the joint note addressed to you on the 23rd instant by his Excellency the Conde de Reus and myself, in which we begged you to come here without delay, for the purpose of holding a conference on certain matters connected with the arrival of General Almonte at Cordova, under the protection of the French troops commanded by General de Lorencez. On the same day similar invitations were sent by us to Commodore Dunlop and M. de Saligny at Vera Cruz, as the events to which I have already alluded were of sufficient importance to call for the immediate presence here of all the Representatives of the three Powers.

I now learn, with as much surprise as regret, that we cannot hope to see you here

until you have taken the measures necessary for securing the retrograde movement of your troops from Tehuacan to the other side of the Chiquihuite Pass.

Your Excellency informs me "that, in consequence of the tardiness of communications arriving from Europe to Mexico, unlooked-for incidents have occurred which essentially modify the state of things which gave rise to the Preliminary Convention signed at the Soledad" by General Doblado and the Conde de Reus, and which Convention, I must remind you, was formally sanctioned and ratified by us all a few hours after its signature.

What the incidents can be to which your Excellency alludes I know not, but permit me, with all due respect, to remark that they should have been communicated officially to your assembled colleagues in a conference specially held for that purpose, before you adopted a distinct line of action which virtually separates you from an engagement entered into by us collectively.

By the Soledad Convention it was agreed, that in the event of the Conferences to be held in this town on the 15th of next month failing in their object, the allied troops were then to fall back to Paso Ancho, from whence they would under such circumstances make a hostile advance, and take by force those places which we now occupy as friends, and with the consent of the Mexican Government.

As the agreement was collective, so also should the retrograde movement have been simultaneous, for the French making it alone now weakens our position, and naturally induces the Mexicans to believe those rumours of late so current, to the effect that the French Government had objects distinct from their allies, by interfering directly in the party strife which has for years past distracted this unfortunate country. These rumours have, unfortunately, been credited, from the fact of General de Lorencez having actually escorted and brought up from Vera Cruz General Almonte, Padre Miranda, and several other persons, under the ban of that Government which we have formally recognized by entering into negotiations with them.

Nobody entertains more respect for General Almonte personally than I do; but your Excellency must surely be aware that he is the recognized head of that party led by the infamous Marquez, Cobos, and others now in arms and at open warfare with the established Government of Mexico.

What, then, can be thought of the impartiality of our intervention, if the Representatives of one of the allied Powers openly protect and introduce into the country persons who are exiled from it as rebels to a Government with which we are now negotiating?

If I have rendered a tribute of respect to the personal character of General Almonte, my impartiality will not be called in question when I inform you that your other protégé, Padre Miranda, is a man whose very name recalls some of the worst scenes of a civil war which has proved a disgrace to the civilization of the present century. It appears to me impossible that the Government of your august Sovereign can wish to extend its all-powerful protection to such a man as this.

With regard to the proposal which your Excellency makes for an advance of the French troops to Mexico, I need hardly remind you that the Government of this Republic would never consent to such a step at present, whatever it may be induced to do hereafter, for they would naturally consider it inopportune until the Conferences to be opened on the 15th of April shall decide whether we can, or cannot, obtain such guarantees and concessions by persuasion as we have always the last resort of exacting by force of arms.

In conclusion, I cannot avoid expressing to your Excellency the pain caused to both the Conde de Reus and myself by the line of conduct you have thought fit to adopt on the present occasion, not only because we consider that you have thereby inflicted a slight on colleagues who, I may say in all truth, have not deserved it, but also because by so acting you have, we fear, inspired a want of confidence in the Mexican Government as to the unity of our action, and thereby seriously imperilled the success of the forthcoming negotiations which might under other circumstances have realized the views of the allied Powers, as set forth in the stipulations of the Convention signed by their Representatives in London on the 31st of October last.

Since writing the above, I have been shown by the Conde de Reus, at your desire, the copy of a letter addressed yesterday by your Excellency to the Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which you inform him that having no hope of a favourable result arising from our forthcoming Conferences with his Government, you have thought it your duty to commence on the 1st of April next the retrograde movement of your troops towards Paso Ancho.

This communication only still further increases the regret I have already expressed at your adopting a measure so likely to frustrate the object of those negotiations, to the

proper direction of which we had looked forward with hope for the successful solution of questions as intimately connected with the important interests we represent as with the future prosperity and welfare of a country we come to pacify, instead of again distracting by stirring up the embers of party discord.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 104.

Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to General Doblado.

Tehuacan, le 26 Mars, 1862.

LE Soussigné, Commandant-en-chef des forces Françaises et Plénipotentiaire Spécial de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français au Mexique, a l'honneur d'informer son Excellence M. le Ministre des Relations Extérieures, que le 1 Avril les troupes cantonnées à Tehuacan se mettront en marche pour se retirer, à petites étapes, au delà de la position fortifiée de Chiquihuite.

Le Soussigné a dû considérer que l'issue des Conférences qui doivent s'ouvrir le 15 Avril à Orizaba pourrait être moins favorable qu'on avait eu lieu jusqu'ici de l'espérer. Fermement résolu à exécuter loyalement et à la lettre les stipulations en vertu desquelles lui a été ouvert l'accès du plateau supérieur, le Soussigné ne peut méconnaître que l'exécution de cet engagement serait de nature à compromettre gravement la santé de ses troupes, s'il attendait la fin du mois d'Avril pour les mettre en mouvement.

En conséquence, il croit de son devoir d'aller se placer, avant l'ouverture des Conférences, dans la position que ses troupes devraient occuper si les négociations aboutissaient malheureusement à une rupture.

Conformément aux stipulations de l'Article V de la Convention de la Soledad, le Soussigné laissera ses hôpitaux sous la sauvegarde de la nation Mexicaine.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé) E. JURIEN.

(Translation.)

Tehuacan, March 26, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Commander-in-chief of the French forces in Mexico, and Special Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, has the honour to inform his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Relations that the troops stationed at Tehuacan will on the 1st of April proceed to retire by short stages beyond the fortified position of Chiquihuite.

The Undersigned has been obliged to take into consideration that the result of the Conferences which are intended to be opened on the 15th April at Orizaba might prove less favourable than there has hitherto been ground to expect. Firmly resolved to execute loyally and to the letter the stipulations in virtue of which access to the upper plateau has been left open to him, the Undersigned cannot conceal from himself that the execution of this engagement would be calculated to affect gravely the health of his troops if he waited until the end of the month of April to put them in movement.

In consequence he deems it his duty to place himself previous to the opening of the Conferences in the position which his troops would have to occupy if the negotiations were unhappily to terminate in a rupture.

Conformably to the stipulations of Article V of the Convention of La Soledad, the Undersigned will leave his hospitals under the safeguard of the Mexican nation.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) E. JURIEN.

No. 105.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

(Extract.)

Orizaba, March 29, 1862.

THE only events of any political importance that have taken place during the month are the entrance into the country of General Almonte, Padre Miranda, and other Mexican refugees under French protection, and the death of General Robles on the 22nd instant when on his way down to join them at Cordova.

He was accused by the Government of conspiring with the Reactionary Party, and after having been banished from Mexico, was confined on parole to the precincts of some small town near Real del Monte, from which he escaped, and was coming down this way

for the purpose mentioned, when he was captured near San Andrés, a village some fourteen leagues from this place.

Knowing what his fate would be, General Prim and myself interceded in his favour with the two Mexican Ministers who were then here, and, after considerable difficulty, succeeded in inducing them to write to the General commanding at San Andrés to suspend the execution of the sentence pronounced against him, until a further application for his pardon could be made to the Supreme Government at Mexico.

This letter was despatched by a courier at 7 o'clock on the evening of Saturday last, but the man losing his way in the night, which was both dark and stormy, only succeeded in reaching San Andrés on the following day at 11 o'clock in the morning, whereas poor General Robles had been shot at 6 o'clock.

Although nobody can defend him for conspiring against the Government, and then breaking his parole to join the Chiefs of a hostile faction, yet everybody regrets his death, for he was a thoroughly amiable man, and had never committed any of those acts of cruelty and oppression by which most Mexican Generals of both parties have rendered themselves so notorious.

General Prim returned last night from Tehuacan, where he had gone the day before to endeavour to persuade Admiral Jurien de la Gravière to give up his retrograde movement, as well as to send back to Vera Cruz his protégés Almonte, Miranda, and the others. He appears to have been only partially successful, but he did induce the Admiral not to retire beyond Cordova, which is on this side of the fortified pass at the Chiquihuite. The Admiral also promised not to allow the refugees to penetrate for the present further into the interior than Cordova, where he would remain with them until he received this month's mail from Europe, when he would be able to judge whether the step he had taken was likely or not to be approved of by his Government.

Thus stands the question therefore at present, but nothing can now change the bad effect sure to be produced by the letter which he addressed to this Government foretelling the failure of our forthcoming negotiations with them, and announcing the retirement of his troops, nor excuse the step he has taken of his own accord without consulting his colleagues assembled in Conference, as he ought to have done before adopting a line of his own in opposition to the policy which he had conjointly pursued with us up to that moment.

General Prim, who entirely coincides with the view which I have all along taken of this question, will re-embark his troops and retire from the country should the French not modify a policy which he condemns equally with myself.

Marquez, at the head of about 2,000 men, being the remnant of all the Reactionary forces, is said to be manœuvring to get down this way and receive into his ranks Padre Miranda and the other people whom the French now have under their protection at Cordova.

Zuloaga has, I hear, resigned his claim to be the head of this party in favour of General Almonte, who thus, although a thoroughly respectable man himself, becomes implicated and mixed up with some of the worst men in the country.

No. 106.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, March 30, 1862.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th instant, inclosing copies of my correspondence with Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, I have now the honour to inclose copy of a further communication which I have just received from his Excellency, together with my reply thereto.

As the courier is on the point of starting with the mails for Vera Cruz, I can only refer your Lordship to my answer, which briefly replies to all the main points in Admiral Jurien's letter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to Sir C. Wyke.

M. le Ministre,

Tehuacan, le 29 Mars, 1862.

J'AI l'honneur de répondre à la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 27 de ce mois. J'ai déjà prié M. le Comte de Reus de transmettre les explications que je lui ai données verbalement sur le mouvement projeté des troupes Françaises cantonnées à Tehuacan.

Je n'ai fait parvenir jusqu'ici au Gouvernement Mexicain aucune des notes que j'avais soumises, par l'intermédiaire de M. le Comte de Reus, à vos observations. Ces notes, j'ai l'honneur de vous en prévenir, doivent être considérées comme non venues. Hier seulement une communication de M. le Général Zaragoza m'a paru exiger une réponse immédiate, et j'ai fait connaître officiellement à M. le Ministre des relations extérieures à Mexico mon intention de quitter Tehuacan le 1 Avril pour retrograder avec mes troupes jusqu'à Paso Ancho. J'ai adressé copie de cette correspondance à M. le Comte de Reus, en le priant de la mettre sous vos yeux.

Au moment où les troupes alliées ont quitté Vera Cruz pour aller occuper dans l'intérieur du Mexique les cantonnements qui leur étaient affectées, la conférence s'est trouvée matériellement dissoute et chacun des Commissaires a dû pourvoir sous sa responsabilité aux incidents imprévus qui se sont présentés. Il est évident que lorsque deux des Commissaires restaient à Vera Cruz, que deux d'entr'eux s'établissaient à Orizaba, et que le cinquième était obligé de séjourner à Tehuacan, il était difficile, si non impossible, de s'astreindre à ne prendre aucune décision sans une délibération préalable de la Conférence.

Un de ces incidents qui ont eu, je ne le méconnais pas, le plus de gravité, a été le départ de Vera Cruz, sous l'escorte d'un de nos bataillons, du Général Almonte, du Docteur Miranda, et d'autres émigrés arrivés d'Europe sur le dernier paquebot Anglais. C'est sans mon aveu et par malentendu regrettable que ces émigrés ont obtenu dans cette occasion la protection de notre drapeau. Je suis tout à fait d'avis que si l'on peut accepter le secours d'un parti lorsqu'on est en guerre avec un Gouvernement, il faut au contraire, tant que durent les négociations, s'interdire soigneusement toute immixtion ouverte ou clandestine dans les affaires intérieures du pays. Je n'aurais donc pas hésité à inviter les émigrés en question à retourner à Vera Cruz, si le meurtre du Général Roblès ne m'eût paru un défi porté par le parti exalté aux conseils de modération que, dès le début de nos conférences, nous avons essayé de faire entendre. J'ai considéré comme une injure gratuite à la loyauté des armes Françaises le prétexte dont on s'est servi pour mettre à mort un des hommes les plus justement considérés du Mexique et dans lequel on s'accordait à voir l'espoir non de parti réactionnaire, mais bien du parti modéré. J'ai donc cru qu'en présence de ce douloureux événement il y aurait une insigne faiblesse de notre part à renier les hommes auxquels avait été accordée, ne fût-ce que par une erreur, la protection de notre drapeau, et j'ai prescrit au Commandant du bataillon qui les avait amenés jusqu'à Cordova de les conserver sous sa sauvegarde.

Quant au mouvement rétrograde dont j'ai notifié l'intention au Gouvernement Mexicain, il m'est commandé par le plus simple prudence. Tant que j'ai cru qu'il pourrait sortir des Conférences d'Orizaba un arrangement facile, et de nature à donner une satisfaction complète aux intérêts de la France je me suis peu inquiété de me trouver cantonné avec nos troupes à trente lieues environ du point où je devais me reporter, si les négociations n'aboutissaient pas; mais lorsqu'il m'a paru que la violence des passions excitées dans ce pays ne laisserait pas le Gouvernement Mexicain maître d'obéir à ses dispositions conciliantes, j'ai dû me demander si je n'exposerais pas nos troupes à un véritable désastre, en les ramenant dans la terre chaude au moment des plus grandes chaleurs, et au milieu des pluies dont personne n'ignore ici la funeste influence. Ces considérations auraient peut-être plus de poids dans l'esprit de votre Excellence si des troupes Anglaises se trouvaient exposées aux périls dont je tiens essentiellement à préserver les miennes.

En consentant à m'avancer jusqu'à Tehuacan au lieu de m'arrêter comme les troupes Espagnoles à Orizaba, j'avais donné au Gouvernement Mexican une grande preuve de ma confiance dans l'issue des négociations. En rétrogradant, dès le 1 Avril, je lui fais comprendre en effet que cette confiance a été fort ébranlé; mais je suis loin de rompre la Convention que nous avons signée. Je me prépare au contraire à l'exécuter dans sa clause la plus pénible et la plus rigoureuse.

Rien ne saurait donc indiquer au Gouvernement Mexicain que j'entretiens pour

l'avenir des prétentions qui n'auraient point la complète approbation de mes collègues. Si ce Gouvernement peut mettre aujourd'hui en doute l'unité de notre action, votre Excellence me permettra de lui faire respectueusement observer, que ce n'est certainement pas à moi seul, et à moi le premier, qu'il est juste de s'en prendre.

Sur les observations de M. le Comte de Reus, j'ai consenti à modifier le projet que j'avais eu l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de mes collègues. Je ne retrograderai pas jusqu'à Paso Ancho; je m'arrêterai à Cordova. Nos troupes se trouveront alors dans la même position que les troupes Espagnoles, ayant comme elles l'avantage de ne plus être qu'à deux étapes du Chiquihuite. En retour de cette concession, je demanderai à mes collègues de vouloir bien se joindre à moi pour obtenir du Gouvernement Mexicain de renoncer au système dilatoire qu'il a cru devoir adopter jusqu'ici. Non seulement il importe de mettre un terme à l'anxiété du pays, mais il faut aussi que la reprise des hostilités, si elle devient malheureusement inévitable, ne soit pas ajournée à une époque où des troupes Européennes se trouveraient dans l'impossibilité de tenir la campagne. Votre Excellence a toujours été d'accord avec nous pour reconnaître que des réclamations pécuniaires n'avaient point été le seul objet de notre expédition. Notre première proclamation au peuple Mexicain lui indiquait suffisamment le but plus généreux que nous poursuivions. Nous avons tenu le même langage au Gouvernement de la République. Nous lui avons dit que nous venions ici pour être les témoins et au besoin les protecteurs de la régénération du Mexique.

Je me permettrai de réclamer le fidèle accomplissement de ce programme. Je demanderai que ce soit sur ce terrain que s'ouvrent les Conférences d'Orizaba, et pour mieux formuler ce que j'attends du Gouvernement de la République, je renouvellerai les propositions que j'ai eu l'honneur de soumettre à mes collègues :—

1. Amnistie complète, absolue, sans conditions et sans réserves, pour tous les proscrits politiques;

2. Invitation aux troupes alliées de se rendre dans la capitale pour y protéger la paix publique, et aux Commissaires des trois Hautes Puissances de se concerter pour régler d'un commun accord le meilleur mode à suivre afin de consulter le vœu véritable et sincère du pays.

Il me serait particulièrement agréable de retrouver pour faire prévaloir ces propositions l'unanimité de nos Conférences. Fort de cet accord, je me préoccuperais moins d'éventualités que notre bonne harmonie tendrait nécessairement à conjurer. Je ne pourrais cependant consentir à laisser nos troupes à Tehuacan, que si le Gouvernement Mexicain voulait bien, de son côté, nous relever de l'obligation de retrograder en cas de rupture au delà du Chiquihuite.

Il n'est rien qui excite plus vivement la sollicitude de l'Empereur que tout ce qui touche au bien-être et à la santé de ses troupes. Placer celles qui me sont confiées dans une situation singulièrement dangereuse, serait méconnaître le premier de mes devoirs envers mon Souverain et envers mon pays.

J'espère que ces explications auront complètement édifié votre Excellence sur mes intentions. Je serais heureux qu'elle voulût bien joindre ses efforts à ceux de M. le Comte de Reus pour engager le Gouvernement Mexicain à entrer dès à présent dans les voies de la conciliation, et à nous aider par sa confiance à mettre promptement un terme à la guerre civile.

Les troupes que je commande se mettront en marche pour Cordova le 1 Avril. Celles qui arrivent de France ont reçu l'ordre de s'arrêter provisoirement à la Soledad. Je saisisrai avec empressement tout motif suffisant et sérieux pour suspendre notre marche retrograde, bien que ce mouvement n'ait rien en lui-même d'offensif; mais après l'expérience des laborieuses négociations que nous avons poursuivies ensemble à Vera Cruz, ce serait une véritable imprudence de l'espérer.

J'ai, &c.

Le Vice-Amiral Commandant-en-chef les Forces

Expéditionnaires Françaises au Mexique,

(Signé)

E. JURIEN.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Tehuacan, March 29, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 27th instant. I have already requested M. le Comte de Reus to forward the explanations that I have verbally given him respecting the projected movement of the French troops encamped at Tehuacan.

As yet I have not sent to the Mexican Government any of the notes which I had, through M. le Comte de Reus, submitted to your attention. Those notes, I have the honour to inform you, should be considered as cancelled. Yesterday, however, a communication from M. le Général Zaragoza appeared to me to require an immediate reply, and I officially made known to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mexico my intention of leaving Tehuacan on the 1st of April, for the purpose of retiring with my troops to Paso Ancho. I forwarded copies of this correspondence to M. le Comte de Reus, requesting him to make you acquainted with it.

As soon as the allied troops left Vera Cruz to go and occupy in the interior of Mexico the cantonments indicated, the Conference was in reality dissolved, and each of the Commissioners had to provide on his own responsibility for the unforeseen incidents which have occurred. It is evident that when two Commissioners remained at Vera Cruz, two others were established at Orizaba, and the fifth was obliged to reside at Tehuacan, it was difficult, if not impossible, to undertake not to arrive at a decision without a previous discussion by the Conference.

One of those incidents which have been, I do not deny, of a very serious kind, was the departure from Vera Cruz, under the escort of one of our battalions, of General Almonte, Dr. Miranda, and other exiles who had arrived from Europe by the last English packet. The protection of our flag was on this occasion given to those exiles without my acquiescence, and through a regrettable misunderstanding.

I am wholly of opinion that, although the assistance of a party can be accepted when war is declared against a Government, any open or secret interference in the internal affairs of the country should, on the other hand, be carefully avoided as long as the negotiations are carried on. I should not, therefore, have hesitated to recommend the exiles in question to return to Vera Cruz, if the murder of General Robles had not appeared to me to be a defiance hurled by the insensate party at the counsels of moderation for which, since the commencement of our Conferences, we have tried to obtain a hearing. I considered that there was a gratuitous insult to the loyalty of the French arms in the pretext used to put to death one of the men who are the most justly esteemed in Mexico, and in whom every one saw the hope, not indeed of the Reactionary party, but that of the Moderate party. I therefore thought that, in view of that melancholy event, it would have been a signal weakness on our part to disown the men to whom the protection of our flag had, even though by mistake, been granted, and I ordered the Commander of the battalion which had brought them to Cordova to retain them under his care.

As to the retrograde movement of which I have given notice to the Mexican Government, it is required by considerations of the most ordinary prudence. As long as I thought there might result from the Conferences of Orizaba a practicable arrangement, and such as to fully satisfy the interests of France, it gave me little anxiety to find myself encamped with my troops at some thirty leagues from the point to which I should have to retire if the negotiations were fruitless; but, when it appeared to me that the violence of the passions excited in this country would not leave the Mexican Government at liberty to follow their own conciliatory disposition, I had to reflect whether I was not exposing our troops to a positive disaster by leading them back into the hot country at the time of the greatest heat, and in the midst of the rains, of which no one denies the pernicious influence in this country. These considerations would have, perhaps, greater weight in the mind of your Excellency if the English troops were exposed to the dangers from which I consider it essential to preserve mine.

By consenting to advance as far as Tehuacan, instead of halting at Orizaba like the Spanish troops, I had given to the Mexican Government a good proof of my confidence in the result of the negotiations. By retrograding on and after the 1st of April, I give them to understand, in effect, that that confidence has been much shaken; but I am far from breaking the Convention we had signed. I am preparing, on the contrary, to carry it out in its severest and most rigorous stipulation.

There is nothing, therefore, that would indicate to the Mexican Government that I entertain for the future any pretensions which would not have the full approval of my colleagues. If the Government can at present place in doubt our unity of action, your Excellency will allow me respectfully to observe that it is assuredly not just to blame me solely and principally.

I have consented, in consequence of the observations of M. le Comte de Reus, to modify the project that I had had the honour to bring to the knowledge of my colleagues. I shall not retire so far as Paso Ancho; I shall halt at Cordova. Our troops will then be in the same position as the Spanish troops, having like them the

advantage of not being at more than two marches from Chiquihuite. In return for this concession I shall ask my colleagues to be good enough to join me for the purpose of obtaining from the Mexican Government an abandonment of the systematic delay they have hitherto thought fit to adopt. Not only is it necessary to put an end to the anxiety of the country, but also not to delay the renewal of hostilities, should the renewal of them unfortunately become inevitable, until a period in which the European troops would find it impossible to keep the field. Your Excellency has always agreed with us in acknowledging that pecuniary claims have not been the only object of our expedition. Our first proclamation to the Mexican people showed them sufficiently the more generous end we had in view. We have held the same language to the Government of the Republic. We have told them that we came here to be the witnesses, and, if necessary, the protectors, of the regeneration of Mexico.

I shall allow myself to claim the faithful fulfilment of that programme. I shall demand that the Conferences of Orizaba are opened upon that ground, and in order to better express what I expect from the Government of the Republic I shall renew the propositions that I have had the honour to submit to my colleagues :—

1. A full and absolute amnesty, without conditions and without reservations, for all political refugees.

2. An invitation to the allied troops to go to the capital for the protection of the public peace, and to the Commissioners of the three Powers to deliberate for the purpose of together determining the best plan to follow in order to consult the true and sincere desire of the country.

It would be especially agreeable to me to find our Conferences again unanimous, in order to carry these propositions into effect. Strong in that agreement, I shall be less preoccupied with the contingencies which our good understanding would necessarily tend to avert; I could not, however, consent to leave our troops at Tehuacan, except the Mexican Government would be good enough, on their side, to release us from the obligation, in case of rupture, to retire beyond Chiquihuite.

There is nothing for which the Emperor feels a greater solicitude than for all that concerns the welfare and health of his troops. To place those confided to me in a peculiarly dangerous position would be to forget the first of my duties towards my Sovereign and my country.

I hope that these explanations will have fully informed your Excellency of my intentions. I should be glad if you would kindly join your efforts to those of M. le Comte de Reus, in order to induce the Mexican Government to enter at once into the path of conciliation, and to aid us by their confidence in speedily putting an end to the civil war.

The troops I command will commence marching to Cordova on the 1st of April; those arriving from France have received orders to halt provisionally at Soledad. I shall seize with eagerness every ample and material motive to suspend our retrograde march, although that movement is not of itself an offensive measure; but after the experience of the laborious negotiations that we have together followed in Vera Cruz, it would be mere rashness to hope for it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. JURIEN,

*Vice-Admiral Commanding-in-chief the French Expeditionary
Forces in Mexico.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

Sir C. Wyke to Vice-Admiral de la Gravière.

M. l'Amiral,

Orizaba, March 29, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's communication bearing this day's date, the perusal of which has afforded me great satisfaction, in as far as learning that the protection accorded by French troops to General Almonte and Padre Miranda was given without your knowledge and, as you inform me, to your regret.

The expression of this regret completely clears your Excellency from the responsibility in this matter now weighing on your colleague, M. Dubois de Saligny, who not only did not inform Commodore Dunlop, who was with him at Vera Cruz, of the protection

about to be afforded to these exiles, but when called on by that officer after their departure to explain so unaccountable a proceeding, declared that General de Lorencez had taken them into the interior in obedience to express orders received from the Emperor to that effect.

I am utterly at a loss to account for such an extraordinary discrepancy between the statements, with reference to this matter, of your Excellency and of M. de Saligny; but I willingly accept yours as expressing, I am convinced, more correctly the views of your Government, which could never wish to sow fresh elements of misery and discord in this country by introducing into it the leaders of that party now in open rebellion against its Government with whom we have at present an amicable understanding.

Your Excellency informs me that had it not been for the execution of General Robles you would have repaired the mischief done by at once sending back to Vera Cruz General Almonte, Padre Miranda, and others now still under French protection at Cordova, but that in consequence of the death of that officer, which you looked on as a threat held out by the Ultra-Liberal Party, you had refrained from doing so.

I cannot understand how the execution of a Mexican General found guilty of corresponding and conspiring with a faction in open rebellion to the Government can justify or account for your retaining the leaders of that party under your protection, unless, indeed, you wished completely to identify yourself with them, which I know cannot be the case from the expression of your Excellency's regret that such protection was ever afforded to them. One word more on this subject, and I shall have done.

The fact of your retaining General Almonte and Padre Miranda at Cordova not only compromises yourself, but also the colleagues with whom you are acting, who feel convinced that this reflection will be sufficient to induce your Excellency, without any stronger remonstrance on their part, to send those persons back to Vera Cruz without delay, as their remaining longer where they are will prove a most serious embarrassment to us all.

Their advance into the interior was the immediate cause of General Robles' death, and their remaining and holding communication with other persons will inevitably bring about more reprisals of a like nature.

I am happy to learn that your Excellency's letter to the Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs was not sent; but the one which you inform me was addressed by you to General Zaragoza will, I apprehend, give rise to what I so much feared with regard to the other.

I do not presume to form an opinion on the necessity of moving your troops from Tehuacan down to Cordova, so long as they do not proceed to Paso Ancho, which would have been, in appearance, a virtual repudiation of the engagements which we collectively entered into by the Convention of La Soledad.

With regard to the proposals which your Excellency intends making to the Mexican Representatives when our negotiations with them commence, I will not now allude, as I conceive it will be better to discuss them at our next Conference, which I trust will take place with as little delay as may be in order to re-establish, if possible, that joint action amongst us without which we can never bring our present undertaking to a successful conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 107.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received April 28.)

(Extract.)

I AM sorry to find, by the receipt of your Lordship's despatches which have just reached me, that my official correspondence which left Vera Cruz on the 1st of February last had not been received by your Lordship, as I think it would have modified the disapproval your Lordship expresses in your despatch of the 25th ultimo of the Proclamation issued to the Mexican people on the 10th of January, by the Commissioners and commanding officers of the allied forces at Vera Cruz.

By the receipt of my despatch of the 19th of January, your Lordship will have seen that, until we each received further instructions from our respective Governments,

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we could not "send to Mexico the terms we were to demand for the wrongs enumerated in the preamble of the Convention," as we did not know whether each Government was to be responsible for the satisfaction of the claims brought forward by the other two, or merely for its own.

The French ultimatum contained demands which neither General Prim nor myself could support in the name of our respective Governments, and hence our united action was completely crippled on this most important point at the very outset of our undertaking, by a want of foresight in the three Governments in not having furnished us with definite instructions relative to this matter.

In order, therefore, to gain time, and for the purpose of doing away with the extremely hostile spirit existing throughout the country against the Spanish element in the expedition, we used conciliatory language both to the Government and the people; and every day's experience only proves the wisdom of our having done so, for now here we are in the heart of the country received as friends, and with a fair prospect of obtaining amicably what we could not then have got by force.

When the troops arrived at Vera Cruz, they were totally unprovided with the means of transport, which had all to be procured and created during the two months and a-half we remained there; and we could not have moved before we did, however much we might have desired to do so.

The physical difficulties to be overcome in moving troops into such a country as this are immense, where they have to march over vast uninhabited plains of burning sand, often without a drop of water to be obtained, and always with a tropical sun overhead.

Add to this a hostile population, accustomed to the use of arms, who would have been hanging on the flanks and rear of an invading force not strong enough to keep open the communication with its base of operations, and your Lordship will perceive why we were pliant until we became strong.

I am so thoroughly convinced of the difficulty of subduing so vast an amount of territory, inhabited by a people who excel in guerilla warfare, that I think every means of amicably settling our differences with them should be tried before having recourse to the last resort of arms.

I trust that the receipt of my last two months' correspondence will have convinced your Lordship that we have pursued the right course; for to have at once brought on hostilities with this Government would only have resulted in our being surrounded and besieged in Vera Cruz, where the climate is so pestilential that an agglomeration of troops there would have been certain to cause a fearful mortality amongst them.

No. 108.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received April 30.)

Sir,

Admiralty, April 30, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Maitland, dated the 18th March, reporting his arrival at Acapulco, and generally on the movements of British and foreign ships of war on the western coast of Mexico.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Rear-Admiral Sir T. Maitland to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Bacchante," at Acapulco, March 18, 1862.

I REQUEST you will acquaint their Lordships that the "Bacchante" and "Duquay Trouin" anchored in the harbour of Acapulco yesterday morning.

2. I found here the "Tartar" and the "Cameleon," also the French corvette

"Bayonnaise," and the United States' screw gun-boat "Wyoming;" the latter relieved the "Naragansett," which vessel left this for San Francisco on the 11th instant. The "Mutine" was at Guaymas on the 26th February, and is expected at Mazatlan.

3. Captain Hayes, on his arrival here, was waited upon by an Aide-de-camp of the Governor, to offer his services; and during the afternoon Captain Hayes called on the Governor, and afterwards signified to him in writing that the object of the "Tartar's" visit to this port was to afford protection to British interests and those of our allies. Everything remains perfectly quiet here.

4. There is only one fort at Acapulco: it is capable of mounting ten or twelve guns on each face, say forty guns; the greater part of which would be unprotected, being *en barbette*. The fort is completely commanded by Point Grifo, at a distance of 1,500 or 1,600 yards. The whole of the guns have been removed, in order (as understood) to prevent the town being cannonaded, in the event of war being declared against Mexico.

5. Acapulco is perfectly healthy, and fresh supplies are at present procurable, but their continuance cannot be depended upon.

I shall either remain here or go on to San Blas, as circumstances may appear advisable, keeping a ship at Guaymas and another at Mazatlan or San Blas.

I have communicated my arrival to Sir Charles Wyke, by courier to Mexico, in accordance with his request, a duplicate of which letter will be transmitted *viâ* Panamá, but I have received no communication from him on my arrival here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MAITLAND.

No. 109.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1862.

YOU will be anxious to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government with respect to the state of affairs in Mexico described in your despatches of the 27th, 29th, and 30th ultimo.

Reserving the argument on the important questions raised in those despatches to my other communications, I will state at once what Her Majesty's Government consider the most urgent of those questions, and the conclusions at which they have arrived with regard to them.

These questions are: First. Was M. Dubois de Saligny right in allowing the emigrants General Almonte and Padre Miranda to penetrate into the interior of Mexico under the protection of the French flag, or were General Prim and Her Majesty's Representative right in protesting against that act? Secondly. Was General Prim right in deciding to withdraw his troops from Mexico if such conduct on the part of the French Agents should be persisted in? Thirdly. In case the conduct of the French Representative should be persisted in, should the Convention of October 31 be considered as at an end, or only suspended?

To the questions thus put, the answers of Her Majesty's Government are:—First. That in their opinion, General Prim and Her Majesty's Representative were quite right in protesting against the permission given by M. Dubois de Saligny to General Almonte and Padre Miranda to penetrate into the interior of Mexico under the protection of the French flag.

Secondly. That, in their opinion, General Prim was quite right in deciding to withdraw his troops, should such conduct on the part of the French Representative be persisted in.

Thirdly. That it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that, in case the conduct of the French Representative should be persisted in, the Convention of October 31 should not be considered at an end, but should be deemed only to be suspended.

This last answer must guide your conduct in reference to the occupation of Vera Cruz, and as to your own personal position.

In regard to Vera Cruz, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the occupation of Vera Cruz in the name of the allies should be continued till further instructions are sent to the Agents of the three Allied Powers. A very short period may bring about either a change in the French policy with regard to Mexico, or a spontaneous

change of Government in Mexico, and in either case the Convention of October 31 might be revived.

With regard to your own personal position, you should, if the Convention of October 31 should be suspended, retire to Bermuda, and wait there for further instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 110.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 30, 1862.

ON reading the correspondence between Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, General Prim, and yourself, I am forcibly struck with the illogical character of the French Admiral's proposals. He says that since he signed the Convention of Soledad, circumstances have changed. But it is obvious that on two points only have circumstances changed, and the changes on those two points have arisen from the proceedings of the French Agents themselves. One new circumstance is, that fresh orders have come from Paris; the other circumstance is, that General Almonte has appeared in Mexican territory under the protection of the French flag as the avowed advocate of a Monarchical form of government in Mexico.

Neither of these circumstances can in any way be imputed to the Mexican Government; neither of them, therefore, can afford the allies any ground for setting aside the Convention of Soledad. The French Government have assured me, within the last few days, that although they disapprove of the Convention of Soledad, they yet hold themselves bound to fulfil the conditions of that engagement.

But by the Convention of Soledad the Commissioners of the three Powers were to hold a meeting at Orizaba with the Commissioners of the Mexican Government, and that meeting has since been fixed for the 15th of April. But the proposal of Admiral Jurien de la Gravière to send a message to Mexico demanding a general amnesty, the convocation of a Representative Assembly in Mexico, and the occupation of the city of Mexico by the allied troops during the elections and during the sitting of the Assembly, would be a manifest contravention of the Convention of Soledad. Such a proposal would be, as you observe, at once rejected by the Mexican Government.

It is true that, in the year 1860, I made propositions of a similar nature in Mexico. But the then existing circumstances were entirely different. In the first place, there were at that time in Mexico two parties of nearly equal strength carrying on civil war. The one party held the capital, the other party held the chief port (Vera Cruz) and the greater part of the territory of Mexico. In the next place, the offer then made was entirely amicable; no force was sent to support it, and it might be rejected, as it was rejected, by either party without any further consequence than the continuance of the civil war. But if the proposed offer were now made, it would be made to a Government not resisted by more than 2,000 men in arms; and, if rejected by them, as being in their opinion dishonourable and degrading to them, Great Britain, France, and Spain could not sit down quietly and withdraw their naval and military forces at the bidding of the Mexican Government.

The difference which has arisen between the French Government on the one side, and the British and the Spanish Governments on the other, is greatly to be deplored; yet it is to be remarked that it is a difference rather as to facts than as to principle. The French Ambassador, by order of his Government, signed most willingly the Convention of the 31st of October, by which the allies pledge themselves not to interfere with the right of the people of Mexico to choose their own form of government. But the Emperor and his Government appear to be persuaded that the name of Ferdinand Maximilian put forward by General Almonte will produce a general burst of enthusiasm in Mexico, and a universal adhesion to that Prince in the provinces. Now either this is an error, or it is not.

If, as the British and Spanish Governments believe, it is an error, the French Government will be undeceived, and will return to the sober and practical objects of the Convention of the 31st October.

If it is not an error, the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian will go to Mexico, will be received with general applause, and will establish a Constitutional Monarchy with a free

Cortes and religious liberty. In either way the three Powers may after a time re-establish the united action which present events have disturbed.

The only apprehension of a serious kind which I entertain, is that the French General, anxious for the cause of Monarchy and of Catholic unity, may lend the aid of the French arms to the Reactionary Party in Mexico, and thus give fresh life to the civil war, which appears at present to have almost died away.

In that case we may expect serious troubles, and a protracted contest in Mexico.

No. 111.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1862.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 30th of March, in which you express an opinion that each of the allied Powers should have instructed their Representative as to the course he should pursue in regard to claims brought forward by the other two Powers, I have to observe—

1st. That if Her Majesty's Government had directed you to support all the claims of your colleagues, Her Majesty's Government might have been committed to the support of very unreasonable and exorbitant demands.

2ndly. That if Her Majesty's Government had instructed you that the demands of each Power should be made separately, and upon its own separate ground, the Mexican Government would have found at once, in such a course, the means of establishing division among the allies.

The only course that remained was that which Her Majesty's Government took, namely, to direct that by communication on the spot, an agreement should, if possible, be arrived at by the Representatives of the three Powers.

The want of success in procuring unanimity by this means, is to be attributed to the unreasonable pretension of the French Minister to obtain the acknowledgment of a debt of 15,000,000 dollars, as due in return for 750,000 dollars advanced by Messrs. Jecker to the falling Government of Miramon at the moment of its dissolution.

I have been told, however, by the French Ambassador, on the authority of a despatch from Vera Cruz, that M. Dubois de Saligny consented to waive or to suspend his last-mentioned demand on condition that you would support his demand for 12,000,000 dollars for French indemnities in general. Now the main defect in that demand for 12,000,000 dollars was that it named a gross sum, not supported by any vouchers or by any proof. Still the word of the French Minister might have been taken as authority if he had declared his confident belief that such a demand could have been subsequently supported by sufficient and detailed proof; and if such a statement was distinctly and formally made by him, I think it might have been accepted. But on the whole view of your conduct, Her Majesty's Government approve of the ability and judgment you have displayed in very difficult circumstances, and of the manner in which, upon this last occasion, you have placed on its true grounds British interference in Mexico.

Her Majesty's Government approve also of the firmness with which you have resisted, in concert with General Prim, the attempt to give to the joint expedition of the three allied Powers the character of an intervention in the internal government of the Mexican nation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **RUSSELL.**

No. 112.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1862.

I TRANSMITTED to your Excellency in my despatch of the 28th instant, copies of despatches received that afternoon from Sir Charles Wyke, and I now inclose, for your information, copies of those which I have addressed to him in reply.*

Your Excellency will see in the first of my despatches, the conclusions at which Her Majesty's Government have arrived on the most important of the questions

* Nos. 109, 110, and 111.

adverted to in Sir Charles Wyke's reports; and in the second of them you will find a more detailed examination of the course which the French Agents in Mexico have pursued, and of the results which may be expected from the policy which they have taken upon themselves to adopt.

Your Excellency, in conversing with M. Thouvenel on these matters, will conform your language to the tenour of my despatches to Sir Charles Wyke, avoiding as much as possible to give a controversial character to your communications with the French Minister, and seeking rather by a temperate statement of the difficulties, both present and prospective, which the conduct of the French Agents is calculated to produce, to induce the French Government of itself to prescribe to those Agents greater patience and caution for the future.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 113.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received May 3.)

(Extract.)

Paris, May 2, 1862.

I HAD this morning some conversation with M. Thouvenel with reference to the matters which had formed the subject of Sir Charles Wyke's last communications to your Lordship.

M. Thouvenel hoped, he said, that the difference between the Commissioners would turn out to be less serious than had at first appeared. From letters addressed by General Prim on the 20th and 21st of March to Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, it would seem that, up to that date, there had been a perfect identity of views among the Commissioners. They then foresaw that the measures taken by the Mexican Government would necessarily put a stop to negotiation, and force the French and Spanish troops to assume the offensive. The measures particularly alluded to were the orders issued by the Mexican Government to treat all persons who might enter into communication with the allies as traitors, and to consider the allies themselves as pirates; the menace of General Doblado to establish a second line of Custom-houses in the interior; and, finally, the forced loan, and other acts of violence to which strangers had been subjected. The presence of General Almonte under the protection of the French flag must, therefore, be considered as the one matter of fact which had caused the difference of opinion among the Commissioners. He must admit that this protection had been so far given by the Emperor's orders, that His Majesty, as well as himself, had encouraged the General to return to Mexico, and had recommended him to the Imperial authorities in that country. They must therefore approve what had been done with regard to him, though they could not extend their approbation to the permission given to the Padre Miranda and others who were known to belong to the Reactionary party to accompany the General. But whether this protection to General Almonte had been rightly or wrongly accorded, the execution of General Robles, when on his way to the French camp, and the insolent summons sent to the French Commander-in-chief to surrender General Almonte to the Mexican Government, rendered his future protection a point of honour, which must be maintained at all hazards. Still it was so evident that, without this incident, negotiations must have been broken off, with the consent of all the Commissioners, that he did not think it was fair to attribute so much importance to it.

Taking up the Convention of the 31st October, M. Thouvenel endeavoured to show that there was nothing in the protection accorded to General Almonte which militated against the engagement entered into under Article II "not to exercise in the internal affairs of Mexico any influence of a nature to prejudice the right of the Mexican nation to choose and to constitute freely the form of its government."

Although there was much to be taken for granted in this line of argument, yet mindful of your Lordship's instructions to avoid controversial discussion as much as possible, I said to M. Thouvenel, that while regretting to have to inform him that Her Majesty's Government did not partake his opinions, and considered that the British and Spanish Commissioners were right under existing circumstances in protesting against the permission given to General Almonte and his companions to penetrate into the interior of Mexico under the protection of the French flag, yet that I had much rather discuss with him points on which we were agreed, in the hope that by so doing future misunderstanding might be avoided.

Her Majesty's Government continued to trust, I said, that on general principles the three Governments were still united, that is, that the object of the expedition to Mexico was the redress of our just complaints, and that we were not to impose any particular form of government upon the country. If the Mexicans, of their own accord, chose to proclaim the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian as their Sovereign, with a free Cortes and religious liberty, Her Majesty's Government would with pleasure acknowledge the choice. If, on the other hand, the Mexicans preferred their present form of government and their present rulers, Her Majesty's Government trusted that the French arms would not be employed to assist the Reactionary party, and thus give life to a fresh civil war. Under either of these contingencies there was no reason why the allies should not re-establish a united action, even were the Convention of the 31st October to be forcibly suspended by present events.

M. Thouvenel's reply was so far satisfactory as to recognize anew the objects of the expedition to be those I had mentioned; and he fully admitted in words that no Government would be imposed on the Mexican people. But I should deceive your Lordship if I did not record my own conviction that there is a fixed, if an unavowed, intention to subvert the Government of Juarez, whatever may be the consequence, whether the renewal of the civil war or not.

M. Thouvenel seems prepared for the retreat of the Spanish troops, and expressed the opinion that the French would still be in sufficient force to march and take possession of Mexico without the addition of reinforcements.

I asked what instructions were to be sent to M. Dubois de Saligny, expressing the hope that caution and patience would be prescribed to him. M. Thouvenel assented, and said that as the position of England in Mexico was somewhat different from that of France, inasmuch as no British force was in the interior, he hoped that some consideration would be paid to this difference.

M. Thouvenel having expressed the intention of writing fully on these matters to M. de Flahault, and of sending his Excellency, for communication to your Lordship, the documents which he had cited to me in the course of our conversation, I need not pursue the subject further.

No. 114.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 3, 1862.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 2nd instant, reporting the substance of a conversation which you have had with M. Thouvenel upon the subject of the state of affairs in Mexico, I have to state to your Excellency that it is difficult to judge of all the events which have occurred in that country.

Her Majesty's Government lament that the Emperor of the French should have given General Almonte protection under the French flag. To a people jealous of their independence, the appearance on their territory of a partisan of a different form of government from that which exists, or, at all events, of the Representative of a defeated party, landing under the protection of 7,000 men who have invaded their soil, was sure to inspire alarm, and to revive the passions of hatred and revenge. Under the impression of that alarm, and under the impulse of those passions, General Robles has been put to death.

Her Majesty's Government cannot but attribute great evil to the appearance of General Almonte. This is not a new view of Mexican affairs. Sir Charles Wyke and Commodore Dunlop acted in a similar spirit when they directed that General Miramon should be removed from Vera Cruz to Havana.

It is clear that General Almonte cannot be given up to the Mexicans; but he might be sent back to Paris.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, May 5, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordships that Sir Charles Wyke, in consequence of the state of his health, may ask for a passage from Vera Cruz to Bermuda, with the intention of remaining in that island during the summer; and I have to request that if he should do so, a passage may be afforded to him in one of Her Majesty's ships of war.

In that case Commodore Dunlop will remain sole Commissioner for Great Britain, and instructions will be sent to him to act as such.

I have further to state to your Lordships, that if the French troops should advance on the city of Mexico, and attempt to change the form of government, the execution of the Convention of October 31, 1861, must be suspended; but if any opportunity should occur of carrying into effect the Convention of October 31 in concert with France and Spain, Commodore Dunlop will be empowered to take advantage of it, and sign a new Convention with any Government of Mexico which shall be acknowledged by the Mexican people.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, May 5, 1862.

I HAD a long conversation, yesterday, with the Count de Flahault respecting the affairs of Mexico.

His Excellency explained to me fully the views of the Emperor and his Government.

The Emperor is of opinion that the Commissioners were wrong in raising a question, in the first instance, respecting the Government of Mexico; and again, by giving it a sort of legitimacy by the Convention of Soledad. Instead of this conduct, the course the allies ought, in the opinion of the Emperor, to have pursued, was to have stated their demands very clearly in the first instance: if those demands had been complied with, no further hostilities would have taken place; if they had been refused, the allies should have marched upon Mexico. By the course that has been pursued, the Mexicans were encouraged to insult France. They had asked for the surrender of General Almonte, who had gone to Mexico by the permission of the Emperor, and had received the protection of his officers in command there. The Mexicans had, moreover, cruelly put to death General Robles, who was on his way to the French head-quarters.

I told the Count de Flahault that, without denying the justice of many of the criticisms which, in the name of his Government, he had made, I could not but observe two faults which, in my opinion, had contributed to mar the success of our combined expedition. The first was, that M. Dubois de Saligny had put forth in the Conferences of the allies a demand for 15,000,000 dollars in repayment of 750,000 dollars which had been advanced to General Miramon at the moment when his Government was evidently close to its end. It was impossible that Sir Charles Wyke could concur in so extravagant a demand.

The second fault, in my opinion, was in the sanction given to the appearance of General Almonte in Mexico. It was known to all the world that the purpose of General Almonte was to raise a civil war in Mexico, to subvert the existing Government, and to put himself and his partizans in their place. This was an object totally alien from the objects of the Convention of the 31st of October. The apprehension of this civil war had already led to the execution of General Robles. I could not blame the Mexican Government for defending their own existence.

Count Flahault said that the union of France and England was of the greatest importance, and that he hoped I would inculcate moderation and conciliation on Sir Charles Wyke.

I said that if the Mexicans spontaneously set up a Monarchy, and supported it by their own forces, Her Majesty's Government would be glad to treat with that Government, and to welcome such a solution of the Mexican difficulties. That if, on the contrary, as we believed, the great majority of the middle classes in Mexico were attached to a

Republican form of government, I felt sure the Emperor would never send a large army to impose a Monarchy upon an unwilling people.

M. de Flahault said he was convinced the Emperor would never make an attempt of that kind, and that if he found the Mexicans unwilling to change their form of government, he would rather withdraw his army than force upon them institutions which they were unwilling to accept.

On this footing these affairs must stand for the present. Time will afford a solution.

No. 117.

Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1862.

I STATED to you in my letter of the 5th instant that in the event of Sir Charles Wyke's retirement, on account of his health, to Bermuda, Commodore Dunlop will be sole Commissioner under the Convention of October 31, 1861.

Commodore Dunlop will concert with his French and Spanish colleagues the measures necessary for retaining military possession of Vera Cruz. In making these arrangements he will urge on his colleagues the obvious advantage of limiting, as far as possible, for the sake of the health of the British seamen and marines, as well as for that of the French and Spanish troops, the number of men to be left in occupation of the forts of Vera Cruz.

Commodore Dunlop will take no part in promoting any measure having for its object an interference in the internal affairs of Mexico. But if any opportunity should arise of carrying into effect the Convention of October 31, by obtaining satisfaction for the legitimate demands of Great Britain, France, and Spain, Commodore Dunlop will be authorized to sign a Convention for that purpose, subject to the ratification of Her Majesty.

By legitimate demands, I mean such as are confined to the losses and injuries sustained by British, French, and Spanish subjects, and for which reasonable compensation for the past, and adequate security for the future, are required by the allied Governments and their Representatives.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 118.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, April 3, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a further correspondence which has taken place between Vice-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière and myself, on the subject of the protection still afforded to General Almonte, Padre Miranda, and other Mexican exiles now at Cordova with the French troops.

The repeated excuses of our French colleagues for not joining us here in a conference to be held for the purpose of deciding whether this protection is or is not to be still further extended by them to those persons, places the Conde de Reus and myself in an extremely awkward position, for as long as they remain where they are, we, to a certain degree, are implicated in a transaction of which we entirely disapprove.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to Sir C. Wyke.

M. le Ministre,

Tehuacan, le 31 Mars, 1862.

JE ne tarderai pas à être à Orizaba, puisque nos troupes se mettront demain la marche et que je dois les accompagner. J'avais formé le projet de prendre les devants, mais l'attitude du Général Zaragoza et de ses troupes me fait craindre qu'il ne survienne sur la route quelques incidents qui exigeraient mon intervention. Nous avons eu déjà

un convoi de quarante mules saisi par les ordres du Général, et j'ai poussé la modération jusqu'à dissuader le Chef politique de Tehuacan de transmettre notre réclamation au Général lui-même, l'invitant à la faire parvenir au Gouvernement de Mexico que je suis incapable d'avoir autorisé de pareilles mesures.

J'ai toujours pensé que les hommes d'Etat avec lesquels nous sommes entrés en négociation n'étaient pas complètement libres d'adopter la ligne de conduite prudente et modérée qui pourrait seule sauver ce pays. C'est pour cela que j'ai hâté de me retrouver auprès de mes collègues et d'aviser avec eux à ce qu'il conviendra de décider.

Le prochain courrier nous apportera des éclaircissements tels que nous saurons sans doute si les trois Hautes Puissances sont encore d'avis de suivre au Mexique une politique commune, ou d'adopter une politique séparée. Dans tous les cas, je reconnais la nécessité d'une explication nette et franche sur toutes les questions qui nous divisent, mais j'ai besoin, pour pouvoir les traiter, du concours de mon collègue M. de Saligny, qui est ici Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté au même titre et avec les mêmes pouvoirs que moi.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) E. JURIEN.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Tehuacan, March 31, 1862.

I SHALL be at Orizaba without delay, as our troops will march to-morrow and I have to accompany them. I had intended to come before them, but the attitude of General Zaragoza and his troops makes me fear lest some incidents should occur on the road which might require my intervention. We have already had a troop of forty mules seized by the General's orders, and I have been so moderate as to dissuade the political chief at Tehuacan from forwarding our demand for redress to the General himself, requesting him to inform the Mexican Government that I should have been incapable of authorizing such a measure.

I have always thought that the statesmen with whom we have entered into negotiation were not completely free to adopt the prudent and moderate line of conduct which could alone save the country. It is for this that I hasten to rejoin my colleagues, and advise with them as to what should be decided upon.

The next courier will bring us intelligence which will, no doubt, inform us whether the three great Powers are still intending to follow a common policy in Mexico, or to adopt a separate policy. At all events, I see the necessity for a clear and frank explanation on all the questions which divide us, but in order to deal with them I must have the assistance of my colleague M. de Saligny, who is here as His Majesty's Plenipotentiary, by the same title and with the same powers as I am.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) E. JURIEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

Sir C. Wyke to Vice-Admiral de la Gravière.

M. l'Amiral,

Orizaba, April 1, 1862.

IN your letter of yesterday's date, to which I have now the honour to reply, I find the following sentence:—

“J'ai toujours pensé que les hommes d'Etat avec lesquels nous sommes entrés en négociation n'étaient pas complètement libres d'adopter la ligne de conduite prudente et modérée qui pourrait seule sauver ce pays.”

I really do not see what could have induced your Excellency to form this opinion, for they have acted in the face of great difficulties, with perfect good faith to us in all the engagements we have entered into with them.

In treating with the Statesmen and Governments of these countries it is absolutely necessary, as I have learnt from long experience, to stick closely not only to the spirit, but also to the letter, of any compact one enters into with them, for otherwise you inspire them with distrust, and completely defeat your own object.

It was for this reason that both the Conde de Reus and myself so much regretted your resolution to break up your encampment at Tehuacan before the time mentioned in the Convention of La Soledad, for we foresaw that that would happen which might bring your troops into collision with those of General Zaragoza, who, as you are aware, has all along belonged to the war party in the country.

The other measure, however, which your Excellency has adopted, of bringing the

Chiefs of the Reactionary party into the country, and keeping them at Cordoba under your protection, is of much more gravity, as you thereby either implicate your colleagues in a transaction of which they highly disapprove as being in violation of the Convention of the 31st of October last, or you prove to the Mexican people that there is a division in our counsels, and that that unity of thought and action no longer exists which, in reality, is so essential to the success of our mission.

This month's correspondence from Europe will have proved to your Excellency that our respective Governments are still anxious to maintain the Convention in all its integrity, and as such is the case, its stipulations must be respected.

For this reason it is of the greatest importance that the Representatives of France should no longer absent themselves from a Conference which must be immediately held for the purpose of taking such steps as will end the present embarrassing situation for you colleagues, who are now suffering the odium brought on them by an act which they have repeatedly condemned, and the effects of which they know to be so prejudicial to the success of the undertaking we all have in hand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 118.

Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to Sir C. Wyke.

M. le Ministre,

Bivac de Puente Colorado, le 3 Avril, 1862.

LA lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 1 Avril m'a été remise cette nuit au bivac de Puente Colorado. J'avais l'intention de me porter directement de ce bivac sur Orizaba pour donner quelques jours plus tôt à votre Excellence des explications verbales sur nos mouvements, mais les troupes du Général Zaragoza s'étant rapprochées de notre campement ce n'est pas le moment que je choisirai pour m'éloigner de l'armée. Je crois pouvoir donner à votre Excellence l'assurance qu'il n'y aura aucune collision entre nos troupes et l'armée Mexicaine.

Cependant on ne peut être jamais bien certain des intentions d'une troupe qui ne paraît obéir qu'à ses propres inspirations.

Nous serons probablement obligés d'attendre pendant toute la journée à ce bivac notre convoi, qui, selon son habitude, est resté en arrière. Ce ne sera donc pas avant trois ou quatre jours que je pourrai être rendu à Orizaba.

Je m'abstiens de répondre aux questions si graves que votre Excellence a traitées dans sa dernière lettre. Le courrier d'Europe nous a fait connaître en effet que les trois Hautes Puissances signataires de la Convention du 31 Octobre étaient toujours aussi désireux de maintenir au Mexique entre leurs Représentants la plus complète entente, mais en même temps j'ai lieu de croire que les vues de mon collègue M. de Saligny ont été plus conformes que les miennes aux intentions du Gouvernement de l'Empereur.

Il me serait donc aujourd'hui tout-à-fait impossible de prendre aucune résolution de quelque importance sans en avoir préalablement conféré avec le Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté au Mexique. M. de Saligny m'annonce d'ailleurs qu'il se préparait à quitter Vera Cruz aussitôt après le départ du courrier.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Vice-Amiral Commandant-en-chef des Forces Expéditionnaires
Françaises au Mexique,
(Signé) E. JURIEN.

(Translations.)

M. le Ministre,

Bivouac of Puente Colorado, April 3, 1862.

THE letter which your Excellency did me the honour to address me, dated the 1st of April, has been delivered to me to-night, at the bivouac of Puente Colorado. I had intended to proceed direct from this bivouac to Orizaba, in order to give your Excellency, some days earlier, a verbal explanation of our movements; but the troops of General Zaragoza having approached our camp, this is not a time when I could choose to be absent from the army. I think I can assure your Excellency that there will be no collision between our troops and the Mexican army.

Nevertheless, one can never be certain of the intentions of a force that appears only to obey its own fancies.

We shall probably be obliged to wait all day at this bivouac for our baggage train,

which, as usual, remains behind. I shall not, therefore, be able to reach Orizaba for three or four days.

I abstain from answering the very grave questions which your Excellency treats of in your last letter. The mail from Europe has certainly informed us that the three Great Powers who signed the Convention of the 31st of October were always as desirous as ever of maintaining the most complete understanding between their Representatives in Mexico; but, at the same time, I have reason to believe that the views of my colleague, M. de Saligny, have been more in accordance than mine with the intentions of the Emperor's Government.

It will, therefore, be quite impossible for me, at present, to take any resolution of importance without having first conferred with His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary in Mexico. M. de Saligny, moreover, informs me that he was preparing to leave Vera Cruz immediately after the departure of the mail.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) E. JURIEN,
Vice-Admiral, Commander-in-chief of the French Expeditionary
Force in Mexico.

No. 119.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received May 14.)

(Extract.)

Orizaba, April 11, 1862.

I TAKE advantage of the departure of a French vessel of war for St. Thomas to write to your Lordship a fortnight earlier than I should otherwise have been able to do, as there is every possibility of her reaching that place in time to catch the steamer leaving it for Southampton on the 2nd of May.

My last month's correspondence will have informed you of the unfavourable turn things had taken in consequence of the French agents having extended their protection to General Almonte, Padre Miranda, and other leading men of the Reactionary Party who have been banished from the country, and who now from the French camp maintain an active correspondence with Marquez, Cobos, and other notorious Chiefs of the armed bands at present in open rebellion against the Government.

My despatches of the 27th, 29th, and 30th ultimo, and of the 3rd instant, together with their inclosures, treat so fully of this subject that I should not further have alluded to it had it not produced in its consequences so serious a result as to have completely frustrated the object which the three Powers had in view when they signed the Convention of the 31st of October last.

By my correspondence with Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, your Lordship will have seen the just cause of complaint that General Prim and myself had against our French colleagues, for their having acted thus independently and without even consulting us in a matter so nearly affecting our common interests, as that of introducing into the country, under their direct protection, a set of political exiles banished from it by the Government of the Republic with whom we had already treated, and were about again to negotiate for the adjustment of our differences with them.

During the time that General Prim and myself were using every effort to induce the Admiral and M. de Saligny to retrieve so grave an error, we received a despatch from the Mexican Government to the Allied Commissioners, calling on us either at once to send back Almonte, Padre Miranda, and the other exiles, from whence they came, or to retire our forces again beyond the fortified Passes of the Chiquihuite, as by retaining those persons in the French camp we were violating the spirit of the preliminary Convention of the Soledad, and at the same time setting at naught the Government's legitimate authority.

On the receipt of this letter we again wrote to our French colleagues, stating that it had now become absolutely necessary for them at once to join us in this town, for the purpose of holding a final Conference to decide whether they insisted on continuing to act thus independently, or whether they would once more conform to that majority of votes which had hitherto decided, by mutual consent, any difference of opinion that had arisen amongst us.

After several days' delay, they at length arrived here yesterday, when a Conference was held. I forward to your Lordship an exact and authentic *procès-verbal* of what took place on the occasion, for the due information of Her Majesty's Government in a matter of such paramount importance.

I will not attempt to analyze this Protocol, which gives a faithful account of the

events which have occurred leading to the present crisis, as well, also, as of the several statements made with reference thereto by my colleagues and myself; I leave it for your Lordship's careful perusal, as an accurate knowledge of its contents is essential to the proper elucidation of a question which is of so grave a nature as to require thorough and searching inquiry into all its details.

The letter alluded to as being addressed by the French Agents to the Mexican Government, and in which they state their reasons for breaking off their relations and commencing hostilities, appeared to General Prim and myself a very one-sided and partial statement of their case, being made up of assertions which, as far as we are aware of, are not borne out by the facts; for when I asked the French Minister, in yesterday's Conference, to inform me what were the acts of oppression perpetrated against his countrymen in Mexico since the signing of the Convention of the Soledad, he replied that that was a matter alone concerning his own Government, to which he should report them.

If harsher measures have really been adopted towards the French in Mexico than towards other foreigners, it arises, doubtless, from the hostile attitude assumed by the French Agents and the troops under their command.

As far as the English are concerned, I have only lately heard of one well-founded grievance of which they had to complain, namely, their being subjected to the payment of a tax of 2 per cent. on capital; and this has been suspended, as I have already stated, in consequence of my remonstrances to the Government against such a measure.

The wording of the Convention of the 31st of October last, the correspondence which has passed between the three Governments relative to its interpretation, and, finally, your Lordship's own instructions, prove to me, first, that we are bound to demand satisfaction from the *de facto* Government of the country selected by its people, and, secondly, that we are not to interfere with the existence of that Government by endeavouring to substitute another in its place, unless called on to do so by the expressed will of the majority of the nation.

I have thus briefly stated the causes that have induced General Prim to re-embark the whole of the Spanish troops, and led me to withdraw the moral support of Great Britain from a policy which I feel certain Her Majesty's Government can never approve of.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Procès-Verbal of the Conference held at Orizaba, April 9, 1862, between the Commissioners of the Allied Powers.

LEURS Excellences les Plénipotentiaires et Commandants-en-chef des forces des Puissances Alliées se trouvant réunis dans la résidence de son Excellence le Comte de Reus, la séance est ouverte à une heure de l'après-midi.

En vue de la gravité des affaires à traiter, leurs Excellences ont décidé que les Secrétaires des Missions d'Angleterre et de France assisteraient avec le Secrétaire de la Mission d'Espagne à cette Conférence, pour en rédiger le procès-verbal *in extenso*.

Son Excellence le Comte de Reus prend la parole pour inviter son Excellence l'Amiral Jurien à exposer l'objet de la Conférence, et ce dernier répond que le but principal de la réunion est de tomber d'accord sur la réponse à faire à une communication du Gouvernement Mexicain demandant le rembarquement du Général Almonte et des personnes qui l'accompagnent.

Son Excellence Sir Charles Wyke dit, qu'il est nécessaire d'en venir à une explication franche et nette, et cet avis est partagé par ses collègues.

Le Comte de Reus ajoute qu'il est urgent de savoir si l'on pourra continuer à agir d'accord, comme on a fait jusqu'ici; car lui et ses collègues d'Angleterre considèrent l'attitude prise récemment par les Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur comme contraire aux stipulations de la Convention de Londres, dont le but, suivant eux, était, en premier lieu, de poursuivre la réparation des griefs que chacune des Hautes Puissances avait contre le Gouvernement Mexicain, et d'exiger le respect des Traités; puis, d'arriver par l'appui moral des trois nations à l'établissement d'un Gouvernement fort et stable offrant des garanties suffisantes autant à ses propres nationaux qu'à ceux des Puissances étrangères.

Son Excellence rappelle que dans le principe, si cette question des griefs n'a pas paru en première ligne, lors de la publication d'une Proclamation aux Mexicains et de l'envoi d'une note au Président Juarez, c'est que les Commissaires ne s'étaient pas cru

autorisés à décider s'il y avait ou non solidarité entre eux quant à leurs ultimatums respectifs, et qu'en conséquence ils avaient cru devoir demander à cet égard de nouvelles instructions.

Son Excellence désire qu'il soit bien établi que la ligne de conduite qui a été considérée par certaines gens comme une perte de tems préjudiciable, n'a été qu'une nécessité absolue imposée par le manque total des moyens de transport. Car, bien que les trois Puissances Alliées eussent prévu que dans certaines circonstances on serait obligé de s'avancer dans l'intérieur du pays, leurs troupes sont arrivées à Vera Cruz sans chariots, sans chevaux, sans mulets, sans aucune des ressources indispensables au transport des vivres, des malades, et de l'Artillerie ; dans des conditions, enfin, telles qu'on aurait pu croire à un parti pris de se borner à l'occupation du port de Vera Cruz. Cependant, à peine avait on débarqué que la nécessité absolue de pénétrer dans l'intérieur du pays commençait à se faire sentir, soit à cause de l'altération que souffrait la santé des troupes, soit à cause de l'absence complète des denrées, que les guerillas ne laissaient pas arriver jusqu'à la ville.

En conséquence, les Chefs des forces alliées s'efforçaient immédiatement de rassembler autant que possible quelques éléments de locomotion, qu'on obtenait que difficilement et à prix d'or, étendant aussi peu à peu le cercle de leurs opérations dans les environs de Vera Cruz.

L'Amiral Jurien approuve ce que vient de dire son collègue d'Espagne, et désire qu'il soit constaté que son Artillerie et les objets de campement de deux de ses bataillons n'ont pu être débarqués que le 5 Février.

Le Comte de Reus croit donc qu'il n'était pas possible d'agir autrement, et qu'en entrant en pourparlers et en négociations amicales avec le Gouvernement Mexicain, les alliés n'ont fait que gagner le temps qui leur était absolument nécessaire pour se préparer à marcher en avant, sans s'être laissé jouer un seul instant par le Gouvernement, comme on a pu le croire. On ne craignait pas la guerre, mais on eut voulu éviter au Mexique les malheurs qui en résultent, et atteindre le but de l'alliance sans effusion de sang ; aussi, les Commissaires notifiaient au Gouvernement leur intention de se porter en avant sans lui en demander l'autorisation, désirant rester en paix mais décidés à ne point modifier leur résolution.

C'est dans cet esprit que le Comte de Reus, autorisé par ses collègues, se rendait le 19 Février à la Soledad pour y avoir une entrevue avec M. Doblado, Ministre des Relations Extérieures, et y signait les Préliminaires destinés à déterminer les situations respectives et à servir de base à la ligne de conduite à suivre.

Le 28 l'armée Espagnole se mettait en marche ; l'Amiral à la tête des troupes Françaises avait déjà commencé son mouvement dès le 26, sans rencontrer d'obstacles sérieux ni d'hostilités ; et cependant, les deux armées laissaient sur la route de tristes traces de leur passage—des malades, des bagages, des chevaux ou des mulets qui, ne pouvant suivre la colonne sous un soleil de feu par des chemins affreux, restaient en arrière et attestaient toutes les difficultés de l'entreprise.

Son Excellence ajoute que, si l'on eut trouvé la guerre autour de soi, un désastre eût été possible, et les Gouvernements Européens eussent sans aucun doute demandé à leurs Généraux un compte sévère de leur conduite.

Mais enfin les Espagnols et les Français sont arrivés paisiblement dans leurs cantonnements de Cordova, Orizaba, et Tehuacan, où ils étaient tenus, dit son Excellence, d'attendre le 15 Avril, jour fixé pour l'ouverture des Conférences entre les Plénipotentiaires alliés et les Commissaires Mexicains.

Le Comte de Reus rappelle tous les arguments, peut-être assez peu fondés, qu'il a dû employer auprès du Gouvernement Mexicain pour l'amener à accepter cette date si éloignée.

M. de Saligny prend la parole pour dire que c'est lui qui a demandé avec instance ce retard à l'ouverture des nouvelles Conférences, afin d'avoir le temps de recevoir de son Gouvernement les instructions qu'il en attendait.

Le Comte de Reus dit alors qu'en résumé ni le temps passé à Vera Cruz ni celui qui devait s'écouler jusqu'au 15 Avril, ne sauraient être qualifiés de temps perdu, et que cela demeure suffisamment prouvé par ce que vient d'être exposé.

Enfin, tout allait bien, et il y avait lieu d'espérer que l'on obtiendrait par des voies pacifiques toutes les satisfactions prévues dans la Convention de Londres, lorsque le paquebot du mois de Février vint, en amenant le Général Almonte et quelques autres exilés, jeter la pomme de discorde au sein de la Conférence.

Dans une visite faite à son Excellence par le Général Almonte, ce dernier lui avait déclaré, sans détours, qu'il comptait sur l'appui des trois Puissances pour changer le Gouvernement établi au Mexique en une Monarchie, et placer la couronne sur la tête de

l'Archiduc Maximilian d'Autriche ; qu'il pensait que ce projet serait bien accueilli au Mexique, et que peut-être avant deux mois il serait réalisé.

Le Commodore Dunlop prend la parole pour dire, que quelques jours après M. Almonte lui a fait la même déclaration.

Son Excellence le Comte de Reus avait répondu au Général Almonte qu'elle était d'une opinion diamétralement opposée, et qu'il ne devait pas compter sur l'appui de l'Espagne ; que le Mexique, constitué en République depuis quarante ans, devait nécessairement être anti-Monarchique et n'accepterait jamais de nouvelles institutions qu'il ne connaissait pas, et qui étaient contraires à celles qu'il avait adoptées et sous lesquelles il vivait depuis si longtemps.

Sur l'observation du Général Almonte qu'il se croyait assuré de l'appui des armes Françaises, son Excellence lui répondit qu'il regretterait que le Gouvernement Français s'engageât au Mexique dans une politique qui serait en contradiction avec la politique toujours grande, juste, et généreuse de l'Empereur ; que dans le cas, peu probable mais possible, d'un échec souffert par les forces Françaises soutenant une pareille entreprise, son Excellence en éprouverait autant de peine que si un grand malheur fût venu frapper son pays ou lui-même ; qu'enfin il conjurait le Général Almonte de ne pas marcher en avant, car, s'il allait seul, exilé par un Décret juste ou injuste, il courait à sa perte, et s'il était escorté par des troupes d'une des Puissances alliées, ce fait produirait une alarme qui viendrait compromettre les résultats de la bonne politique suivie jusqu'à ce jour par les Commissaires.

Bientôt, cependant, on apprenait à Orizaba et à Tehuacan l'arrivée de nouvelles troupes Françaises ; mais en même temps on apprenait que, sur l'ordre du Général de Lorencez, un bataillon de Chasseurs escortait le Général Almonte et ses compagnons sur la route de Vera Cruz à Tehuacan. L'Admiral Jurien crut devoir en conséquence donner avis au Gouvernement Mexicain de sa résolution de commencer le 1 Avril le mouvement retrograde prévu dans les Préliminaires de la Soledad si les Conférences n'aboutissaient pas à un résultat satisfaisant.

L'Amiral Jurien prend la parole, pour expliquer qu'il s'est borné d'abord à faire donner un avis indirect de sa résolution au Gouvernement Mexicain, et qu'il ne lui a adressé de note officielle à ce sujet qu'après avoir reçu lui-même du Général Zaragoza une lettre qui ne lui laissait plus aucun espoir d'obtenir des Conférences d'Orizaba un résultat conforme aux intérêts et à la dignité de la France.

Le Comte de Reus expose qu'à cette époque lui et son collègue d'Angleterre seulement se trouvaient à Orizaba, et qu'en recevant la communication de l'Amiral, ils s'étaient demandé si les Commissaires Français avaient le droit de faire escorter les ennemis du Gouvernement établi à Mexico, et si l'Amiral pouvait agir comme il le faisait sans une décision de la Conférence ; car ils considéraient cette ligne de conduite comme équivalent à une déclaration de guerre, et contraire à la Convention de Londres et aux Préliminaires de la Soledad ; qu'ils avaient été d'accord à penser que les Commissaires Français n'avaient pas le droit d'adopter cette ligne de conduite sans l'assentiment de leurs collègues, et qu'en conséquence ils avaient invité immédiatement la Conférence à se réunir, pour décider s'ils continueraient à agir conformément à la Convention de Londres, ou si des instructions de leur Gouvernement étaient venues empêcher les Commissaires Français de marcher désormais avec leurs collègues, afin que dans ce cas chacun pût procéder de la manière qu'il croirait remplir le mieux les vœux de son Gouvernement.

"Pour ma part," ajoute son Excellence, "je prie mes collègues de vouloir bien se prononcer nettement sur ces points, car c'est là le but principal de cette Conférence."

Son Excellence l'Amiral Jurien répond, qu'il croit n'avoir manqué en rien aux stipulations de la Convention de Londres non plus qu'aux Préliminaires de la Soledad.

Il a considéré comme incompatible avec le séjour des troupes Françaises à Tehuacan la protection accordée au Général Almonte par le Général de Lorencez.

Le bâtiment qui portait le Commandant du corps expéditionnaire et son Etat-Major, ajoute M. de Saligny, a, sur l'ordre de l'Empereur, attendu le Général Almonte pendant quatre jours.

L'Amiral Jurien expose que sa retraite de Tehuacan n'a été de sa part qu'un scrupule de loyauté, au sujet duquel il n'avait pas à consulter ses collègues. Une fois revenu à Paso Ancho avec ses troupes, il devait se trouver sur un terrain neutre où il était libre de donner au Général Almonte toute la protection à laquelle avait droit une personne honorée de la bienveillance de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Le Comte de Reus et Sir Charles Wyke désire qu'on examine le fonds de la question, et soutiennent que les Commissaires Français n'ont pas le droit de prêter leur protection aux ennemis du Gouvernement Mexicain sur son propre territoire. On n'est pas venu soutenir au Mexique la politique particulière de chacune des trois nations, mais exclusive-

ment celle indiquée par la Convention de Londres. Aucun des Commissaires n'a le droit d'agir dans des cas aussi graves sans l'assentiment de ses collègues.

L'Amiral répète qu'il se réserve l'interprétation de la Convention de Londres et en accepte toute la responsabilité, de même que ce droit appartient à chacun des Commissaires, sans que cela puisse engager en rien les Gouvernements qui ont conclu cette Convention : les Commissaires Français agissent donc conformément à l'interprétation qui leur paraît la meilleure, et assument d'avance toute la responsabilité de leurs actes.

Sir Charles Wyke demande qu'il soit donné lecture de l'Article II de la Convention de Londres, et l'Amiral Jurien persiste à croire, après l'avoir entendu, que s'il y a eu quelque infraction à la Convention, cela n'a pas été dans la protection accordée au Général Almonte, mais bien dans la douceur excessive et les grands ménagements dont on a usé vis-à-vis du Gouvernement de Mexico ; que d'ailleurs cette politique ne semble pas avoir été vue favorablement en Europe. La marche conseillée par M. de Saligny eût été, croit-il, plus conforme aux intentions du Gouvernement de l'Empereur.

Sir Charles Wyke dit alors, que dès le principe on est entré en négociation avec le Gouvernement *de facto* ; que ce changement d'attitude pourra être considéré comme une inconséquence, et que la protection accordée aux proscrits constitue une véritable ingérence dans les affaires intérieures du pays.

L'Amiral Jurien répond, que la protection accordée au Général Almonte n'est que celle du drapeau Français, qui jamais et nulle part n'a fait défaut aux proscrits de tous les pays ; qu'elle ne constitue nullement une ingérence quelconque dans les affaires intérieures de la République, et qu'une fois accordée il n'y a pas d'exemple que cette protection ait été retirée.

Le Comte de Reus dit, que cette protection s'exerce pour des personnes vaincues et qui sont en danger, mais qu'elle n'est pas admissible pour des gens qui arrivent au dehors avec des intentions hostiles contre le Gouvernement établi, et avec lequel les alliés ont entamé des négociations.

L'Amiral répond que le Général Almonte, qui partageait l'opinion généralement répandue en Europe qu'on était en guerre au Mexique, y était venu, non avec des intentions hostiles, mais au contraire dans un esprit tout pacifique et conciliateur, pour prêcher la concorde aux différents partis auxquels ses antécédents le recommandaient d'avance—pour expliquer à ses compatriotes les vues bienveillantes de l'Europe à leur égard, et éviter tout malentendu ; mission à laquelle le rendaient propre les postes qu'il avait si honorablement occupés, ses relations et l'estime de l'Empereur : que les raisons que le Comte de Reus avait données, à l'appui de son opinion, sur l'impossibilité d'établir la Monarchie au Mexique, lui paraissaient au contraire favorables à ce changement radical d'institutions, puisque celles qu'avait adoptées le Mexique n'avaient fait que le rendre la proie de révolution continuelles, et l'amener à l'état déplorable où il se trouve aujourd'hui.

A quoi Sir Charles Wyke réplique, qu'il trouve étrange que le Général Almonte parle au nom des trois Puissances alliées, car il n'a été investi d'aucune représentation par l'Angleterre et l'Espagne, et n'est nullement l'interprète de la Convention de Londres.

L'Amiral Jurien croit que le Général Almonte n'a jamais manifesté de semblables prétentions ; et le Comte de Reus rapporte de nouveau la conversation qu'il a eue à Vera Cruz avec le Général Almonte, en ajoutant que ce dernier prétendait alors avoir offert le Trône de Mexico, au nom de ses compatriotes, à l'Archiduc Maximilian, qui s'était montré disposé à l'accepter.

Cette déclaration faite au Plénipotentiaire de la Reine, Commandant-en-chef des Forces Espagnoles, ainsi qu'à M. le Commodore Dunlop, ne pouvait passer pour une simple conversation, et comme rien n'était plus opposé à l'esprit de ses instructions il ne lui était pas possible de co-opérer à la réussite des pareils projets.

Les Commissaires Anglais partagent entièrement l'opinion de leur collègue d'Espagne.

M. de Saligny insiste, sur ce point, qu'il n'est pas possible de nier que l'objet réel et principal de la Convention était d'obtenir satisfaction des outrages prodigués aux étrangers par le Gouvernement de Mexico, et d'exiger de lui l'observation des Traités ; que le système de temporisation et de ménagements suivi jusqu'ici était condamné par ce qui se passait tous les jours, car le régime des extorsions, de l'arbitraire, et de la violence avait redoublé, et rendu la situation des étrangers tout-à-fait intolérable ; qu'il en avait à chaque instant de nouvelles preuves dans les réclamations sans nombre qui lui étaient envoyées journellement ; que l'attitude des forces alliées paraissait avoir engagé le

Gouvernement à redoubler d'audace ; que pour sa part il déclarait formellement ne pas vouloir traiter avec ce Gouvernement ; et que son opinion, bien arrêtée, était qu'il fallait marcher sur Mexico.

Le Comte de Reus trouve injuste ce que vient de dire M. de Saligny, et Sir Charles Wyke appuie cette opinion. Si le Gouvernement Mexicain a hésité quelquefois à obtempérer aux désirs des alliés, c'est qu'il ne pouvait considérer de prime abord comme amies, les trois Puissances qui occupaient le seul port d'où il tirait toutes ses ressources, mais après plus ou moins d'hésitation ses résolutions ont toujours été satisfaisantes.

Il y eut cependant un moment où les Plénipotentiaires d'Angleterre et d'Espagne crurent qu'il serait nécessaire de changer d'attitude vis-à-vis du Gouvernement de Mexico ; ils ont écrit dans ce sens à M. de Saligny et à l'Amiral Jurien, et ils se fondaient sur l'assurance donnée à Sir Charles Wyke dans une lettre de Mexico, que l'impôt de 2 pour cent continuait à être exigé des étrangers, et sur la menace exprimée par M. Doblado dans une lettre qu'il écrivait au Comte de Reus, d'interrompre de nouveau les communications entre Vera Cruz et l'intérieur si la douane n'était pas remise aux autorités Mexicaines.

Quelques jours après les Ministres Mexicains, Señor Gonzales Echeverria et Don Jesus Teran, revêtus de pleins pouvoirs, arrivaient à Orizaba, écoutaient les plaintes des Commissaires Anglais et Espagnol, renonçaient après bien des difficultés à la perception du 2 pour cent sur les étrangers, promettaient le retrait du Décret interrompant les communications entre Vera Cruz et l'intérieur, et faisaient connaître l'intention du Gouvernement de faire droit à toutes les réclamations justes des Puissances alliées. Si ces promesses n'étaient pas tenues, quand le jour sera venu, alors il serait temps de déclarer la guerre ; mais il ne faut pas la faire en s'appuyant sur des motifs futiles, qui ne sauraient la justifier devant le grand tribunal du monde civilisé.

Pourquoi, ajoute le Comte de Reus, les Plénipotentiaires Français refusent-ils de croire à ces promesses solennelles ? Comment ne consentent-ils pas à mettre à l'épreuve la sincérité du Gouvernement de Mexico, lorsqu'ils n'ont que six jours à attendre ?

Le Comte de Saligny maintient son opinion, et en assume tout la responsabilité ; elle est fondée sur les griefs, chaque jour plus nombreux, dont ses nationaux se plaignent constamment, ainsi que les Espagnols, dont il a reçu—il ne sait pourquoi—un grand nombre de réclamations, qui auraient dû être adressées au Comte de Reus, et qui lui seront remises par son collègue dès qu'il pourra ouvrir les liasses où elles se trouvent.

Sir Charles Wyke s'étonne que la nouvelle de ces vexations ne soit pas parvenue jusqu'à lui, et demande de quelle nature elles sont et contre qui elles ont été commises. M. de Saligny répond, que naturellement les sujets Français ne se sont point adressés à la Légation Britannique pour faire valoir leurs réclamations.

Sir Charles Wyke désire savoir s'il est vrai que M. de Saligny ait dit qu'il considérait les Préliminaires comme ne valant pas le papier sur lequel ils étaient écrits, et ce dernier répond que jamais il n'a pu avoir la moindre confiance en ce qui émanait du Gouvernement de Mexico, pas plus dans les Préliminaires que dans ses autres engagements.

Le Commodore Dunlop demande à M. de Saligny pourquoi il y a apposé sa signature, et comment il se fait qu'il ne se croit pas engagé.

A quoi le Commissaire Français répond, qu'il n'a pas d'explication à donner à la Conférence sur les motifs qui lui ont fait signer les Préliminaires, mais qu'il se serait trouvé solennellement engagé par sa signature, si le Gouvernement de Mexico n'avait pas pris soin lui-même de déchirer de mille manières les Préliminaires de la Soledad.

Le Comte de Reus interpelle alors M. de Saligny sur un fait personnel : ce dernier aurait dit au Colonel Menduïña, Gouverneur de Vera Cruz, et à M. Cortez, Consul d'Espagne dans le port, que le Comte de Reus ne blâmait les projets de Monarchie Mexicaine en faveur de l'Archiduc que parceque lui-même aspirait à se faire couronner Empereur de Mexique ; et il aurait même assuré qu'il en avait la preuve. Le Comte de Reus s'élève fortement contre une semblable assertion et somme son collègue de s'expliquer à ce sujet, ajoutant qu'un bruit aussi absurde dans la bouche du vulgaire n'aurait eu aucune valeur, mais que venant de M. de Saligny il acquerrait une haute gravité ; qu'enfin s'il en existait des preuves, il insistait pour qu'elles fussent produits.

Le Commissaire Français se souvient en effet d'avoir parlé dans ce sens, mais il n'a fait que répéter ce que l'on disait hautement et publiquement. Les preuves auxquelles il a fait allusion sont, en premier lieu, une lettre vue également par l'Amiral, qu'écrivait une personne tout-à-fait partisan de sa candidature au Trône du Mexique ; en second lieu, les propos qui pouvaient faire supposer que l'Empereur était favorable à ce projet ; enfin les articles du journal "El Eco de Europa," auxquels M. de Saligny n'eut pas attaché la moindre importance si son Excellence le Comte de Reus n'avait pas déclaré devant la

Conférence à Vera Cruz que ce journal ne se permettait pas d'imprimer un seul mot sans avoir reçu l'approbation préalable de son Excellence.

M. de Saligny se rappelle aussi qu'un mot du Comte de Reus l'a vivement frappé. Il lui aurait dit que la candidature d'un Prince Autrichien pour le Mexique était absurde ; que peut-être il y aurait des chances de succès pour un soldat heureux.

Le Comte de Reus déclare qu'il faisait allusion à un soldat heureux Mexicain ; que jamais il n'avait autorisé personne à lui attribuer un projet aussi insensé ni à le soutenir ; qu'il était bien vrai que "l'Eco de Europa" n'imprimait absolument rien sans son approbation, mais qu'on n'y pouvait rien trouver qui eût trait à sa candidature au Trône du Mexique. Il est vivement blessé de ces suppositions ; on viendrait lui offrir le Mexique avec toutes ses richesses qu'il n'en voudrait à aucun prix, car il préfère infiniment la position qu'il s'est créée en Espagne. Les biens qu'il apprécie par dessus tout, et qui suffisent à son ambition, sont la bienveillance de la Souveraine et l'estime de ses concitoyens.

Sur l'observation des Commissaires Français qu'il n'y avait dans tout cela rien de blessant pour le Comte de Reus, ce dernier réplique que c'était faire injure à sa loyauté bien connue que de supposer qu'il nourrissait en secret de pareils projets.

Le Comte de Reus désire qu'on en revienne à l'objet principal de la Conférence, c'est-à-dire, qu'il soit décidé si tous les Commissaires continueront à marcher d'accord, suivant les termes de la Convention de Londres, ou si ses collègues de France adoptent une autre ligne de conduite.

Ces derniers répondent qu'ils continueront à se conformer scrupuleusement à la Convention de Londres, mais qu'ils agiront en vertu de l'interprétation qu'ils trouvent la meilleure, comme c'est leur droit et leur devoir.

Le Secrétaire de la Mission d'Espagne donne lecture d'une note de M. Doblado, qui demande le rembarquement du Général Almonte et de ses compagnons.

L'Amiral Jurien donne lecture de la réponse des Commissaires Français, qui ne peuvent obtempérer à la demande du Gouvernement Mexicain.

Les Commissaires d'Angleterre et d'Espagne n'approuvent pas ce projet soumis par l'Amiral à leur approbation.

L'Amiral Jurien déclare n'avoir jamais vu dans aucun pays du monde le régime de la terreur pesant sur la population et les maintenant sous un joug du fer comme il a vu au Mexique. C'est l'oppression dans tout ce qu'elle a de plus odieux, arrachant sous la plus futile prétexte un père à ses enfants, un fils à sa famille, dépouillant arbitrairement ceux qui possèdent, et empêchant jusqu'aux manifestations les plus timides de l'opinion publique.

Il cite, entre autres, la destitution du Général Uraya et l'arrestation du Général Cenobio, qui a failli être fusillé pour des rapports très superficiels avec les alliés, lorsqu'on était déjà en pleines négociations.

M. de Saligny appuie ce que vient de dire son collègue.

Sir Charles Wyke est d'un avis contraire ; il croit que la majorité est favorable au Gouvernement actuel, et que l'on trouverait difficilement des partisans pour la Monarchie.

L'Amiral Jurien fait abstractions des projets réalistes à l'Archiduc Maximilian ; il ne s'agit nullement de Monarchie pour le moment—ce n'est qu'une éventualité, dont il ne doit pas être question en présence de la nécessité urgente pour le pays d'avoir un Gouvernement moral et respectable, qui n'étouffe pas sous une oppression systématique la libre expression des vœux de la partie saine et modérée de la nation.

Cette majorité existe, mais elle se garde bien de se faire connaître et de manifester son opinion, car elle a pu avoir des raisons de croire que les Commissaires alliés lui étaient hostiles.

Le Comte de Reus répond qu'on n'avait point de motif de leur attribuer cette hostilité ; à la Havane il a déclaré au Général Miramon, au Docteur Miranda, et à un Agent accrédité de Marquez et de Zuloaga, son intention de traiter avec le Gouvernement établi à Mexico et non avec des guerillas ; il leur a dit clairement que ces mêmes guerillas n'avaient qu'à entrer promptement à Mexico et à se constituer Gouvernement, et qu'alors on traiterait avec elles ; cela leur eût été facile, puisque toutes les forces du Président Juarez étaient alors sur la côte de Vera Cruz.

L'Amiral Jurien pense que les gens véritablement dignes d'intérêt sont ceux qui, sans appartenir aux anciennes classifications des parties extrêmes, sans être sous les armes, se trouvent partout dans la capitale, dans les villes, dans les campagnes, gémissant sous l'oppression, n'osant pas respirer, mais appelant de tous leurs vœux l'ordre et la tranquillité ; ce parti qui désire notre appui, on le trouvera partout le jour où il y aura la liberté de manifester ses véritables sentiments. Le Gouvernement de l'Empereur, bien

informé à cet égard, veut en conséquence qu'on marche sur Mexico, et telle est la résolution des Commissaires Français.

M. de Saligny dit que ses nationaux gémissent aussi sous cette oppression, et qu'il a reçu plusieurs pétitions demandant la prompte marche des troupes Françaises sur Mexico, qu'ils considèrent comme leur unique moyen de salut, et le seul remède aux maux qu'ils souffrent et à la consommation de leur ruine.

Le Commodore Dunlop croit que les Français à Mexico verraient avec un profond déplaisir la marche de l'armée Française sur la capitale.

Sir Charles Wyke croit que parmi des personnes qui dirigent les affaires du Gouvernement de la République Mexicaine, il se trouve des membres distingués du véritable parti modéré, et que la ligne de conduite suivie jusqu'ici par les Commissaires alliés était la mieux appropriée à la consolidation d'un Gouvernement acceptable aux yeux de tous.

Les Commissaires Anglais et Espagnol pensent qu'il est impossible de marcher d'accord si leurs collègues ne se conforment pas strictement à la Convention de Londres et aux Préliminaires de la Soledad.

M. de Saligny répond que s'il y a infraction aux Préliminaires, ce n'est point de la part des Commissaires, mais bien de la part du Gouvernement Mexicain lui-même.

Sir Charles Wyke revient sur la Convention de Londres, et le Comte de Reus lit la réponse de M. Billault aux interpellations que lui a adressées M. de Boissy dans le Sénat sur les affaires du Mexique. Le sens de cette réponse est que la Convention de Londres fixe la ligne de conduite des Puissances alliées.

Le Comte de Reus soutient le droit des Mexicains à s'opposer au changement de leurs institutions si on voulait le leur imposer. L'Amiral déclare n'éprouver aucune sympathie pour un Gouvernement auquel on est venu prêcher la paix et la conciliation, et qui ne reconnaît les ménagements qu'on a eus envers lui qu'en permettant des exécutions sanguinaires et en publiant des édits de proscription.

Les Commissaires Anglais et Espagnol déclarent ne pouvoir marcher d'accord avec leurs collègues de France, si l'Amiral persiste à opérer son mouvement rétrograde, et ils attaquent fortement cette résolution, qu'ils considèrent comme contraire aux engagements réciproques.

L'Amiral répond que les armistices peuvent toujours être dénoncés à l'avance par une des parties. "Je me suis engagé," dit-il, "à me retirer en cas de rupture, mais à rien de plus. Aujourd'hui je trouve la rupture pleinement justifiée, et je me retire : ma résolution n'engage à rien mes collègues, mais elle est conforme à mon interprétation de la Convention, et j'en assume toute la responsabilité vis-à-vis de mes collègues, de mon Gouvernement, et du monde entier."

Le Comte de Reus dit qu'il ne peut y avoir armistice là où il n'y a pas eu guerre ; et M. de Saligny répond qu'il y avait eu guerre dès le moment qu'on avait occupé Vera Cruz.

Il répète qu'il considère la marche des troupes sur Mexico comme indispensable à la sécurité de ses nationaux, victimes chaque jour de détestables abus, et déclare de nouveau sa résolution inébranlable de ne plus traiter avec le Gouvernement du Président Juarez.

Les Commissaires Anglais et Espagnols répondent qu'ils ne connaissent aucun motif qui puisse justifier cette résolution, qu'ils ne sauraient accepter la réponse adressée par les Commissaires Français à M. Doblado, et ne peuvent y apposer leur signature.

Ils déclarent que, si leurs collègues de France persistent à se refuser à l'éloignement des exilés Mexicains, et à ne point prendre part aux Conférences qui devaient avoir lieu à Orizaba le 15 Avril, ils se retireront avec leurs troupes du territoire Mexicain, considérant cette manière d'agir comme une violation de la Convention de Londres et des Préliminaires de la Soledad.

L'Amiral Jurien dit alors que celle des trois Puissances qui reste au Mexique pourra agir dans l'intérêt des alliés, et les Commissaires Anglais et Espagnol répondent qu'il n'appartient qu'à leurs Gouvernements de décider cette question, et que quant à eux ils ne sont pas autorisés à accepter cette offre.

On discute le mode et l'époque de l'évacuation du territoire par les forces Espagnoles et Anglaises.

L'Amiral Jurien offre les bâtiments qui sont à sa disposition pour aider au transport des troupes Espagnoles.

Le Comte de Reus croit devoir ne pas accepter cette offre, car tous les éléments nécessaires lui seront envoyés de l'Havane, et, s'il le faut, il profitera des bâtiments Anglais mis à sa disposition par le Commodore Dunlop.

Avis est donné, séance tenante, des résolutions prises au Gouvernement de Mexico et au Général Zaragoza.

Le procès-verbal a été lu en présence de leurs Excellences Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, le Comte de Reus, l'Amiral Jurien, et le Commodore Dunlop (M. le Comte de Saligny se trouvant absent pour cause d'indisposition), et elles l'ont trouvé conforme et l'ont approuvé.

Orizaba, le 11 Avril, 1862.

(Signé)

JUAN ANTO. LOPEZ DE CEBALLOS, *Secrétaire de la Mission de Sa Majesté Catholique.*

COMTE A. DE LA LONDE, *Secrétaire de la Légation de France.*

JOHN WALSHAM, *Acting Secretary of Her Majesty's Legation.*

(Translation.)

THEIR Excellencies the Plenipotentiaries and Commanders-in-chief of the forces of the allied Powers being assembled at the residence of his Excellency the Count de Reus, the sitting commenced at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Having regard to the gravity of the affairs to be considered, their Excellencies decided that the Secretaries of the Missions of England and France should, together with the Secretary of the Mission of Spain, be present at this Conference, to draw up the *procès-verbal in extenso*.

His Excellency the Count de Reus begins by inviting his Excellency the Admiral Jurien to set forth the object of the Conference, and the latter answers that the principal end of the Conference is to come to an agreement on the answer to be made to a communication of the Mexican Government, demanding the re-embarkation of General Almonte and of the persons accompanying him.

His Excellency Sir Charles Wyke says, that it is necessary to come to a frank and decisive explanation, and this opinion is shared by his colleagues.

The Count de Reus adds, that it is expedient to know whether it is possible to continue to act in concert, as has been hitherto done; for that he and his English colleagues consider the attitude recently taken by the Plenipotentiaries of His Majesty the Emperor as contrary to the stipulations of the Convention of London, of which the object, according to them, was, in the first place, to procure reparation for the grievances which each of the High Powers had against the Mexican Government, and to exact respect for Treaties; then to arrive, by means of the moral influence of the three nations, at establishing a strong and durable Government, offering sufficient guarantees both as regards their fellow-countrymen and the subjects of foreign Powers.

His Excellency reminds the Conference that in the beginning, if this question of grievances did not appear in a conspicuous light on the occasion when the Proclamation to the Mexicans was published, and the note sent to President Juarez, it was that the Commissioners did not consider themselves authorized to decide whether or not there was unity amongst them as regards their respective ultimatums, and that, in consequence, they had thought it right to ask for fresh instructions in this respect.

His Excellency desires that it should be well understood that the line of conduct which had been considered by certain people as a prejudicial loss of time, was only an absolute necessity, imposed by the total want of means of transport. For although the three allied Powers had foreseen that under certain circumstances it would be necessary to advance into the interior of the country, yet their troops arrived at Vera Cruz without waggons, without horses, without mules, without any of the resources indispensable to the transport of provisions, of the sick, and of artillery; under conditions, in short, such as might have led to the belief that they had determined only to occupy the port of Vera Cruz. However, they had hardly disembarked when the absolute necessity of penetrating into the interior of the country began to be felt, both on account of the sickness suffered by the troops, and the total absence of supplies, which the guerillas did not allow to arrive as far as the town.

In consequence, the Chiefs of the allied forces were compelled immediately to get together as many means of locomotion as possible, which were obtained with difficulty, and at a heavy price, extending also, by degrees, the circle of their operations in the environs of Vera Cruz.

Admiral Jurien approves what his Spanish colleague has just said, and desires that it may be recorded that his artillery and the camping materials of two of his battalions were only able to be disembarked on the 5th of February.

The Count de Reus thinks, therefore, that it was not possible to act otherwise, and that in entering into parley and amicable negotiations with the Mexican Government, the

allies only gained the time which was absolutely necessary to them for preparing to march forwards, without allowing themselves to be cajoled a single instant by the Government, as might have been thought. War was not feared, but it was wished to spare Mexico the misfortunes which result from it, and to attain the object of the alliance without the effusion of blood; also the Commissioners notified to the Government their intention to go forward without asking its permission, desiring to remain at peace, but decided not to modify their resolution.

It was in this spirit that the Count de Reus, authorized by his colleagues, went to La Soledad on the 19th February, to have an interview there with M. Doblado, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and then signed the preliminaries destined to determine the respective situations, and to serve as a basis for the line of conduct to be pursued.

On the 28th the Spanish army commenced its march. The Admiral at the head of the French troops had already commenced moving since the 26th, without encountering serious obstacles or hostility; and yet the two armies left on the road sad traces of their passage. Invalids, baggage, horses or mules, which, not being able to follow the column under a fiery sun, along fearful roads, remained in the rear, and bore witness to all the difficulties of the undertaking.

His Excellency adds that, if the expedition had found itself surrounded by war, a disaster might have happened, and the European Governments would, without doubt, have taken their Generals severely to task for their conduct.

But at last the Spaniards and the French arrived peaceably at their encampments at Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan, where they were bound, says his Excellency, to await the 15th of April, the day fixed for the opening of the Conferences between the allied Plenipotentiaries and the Mexican Commissioners.

The Count de Reus recapitulates all the arguments, perhaps but ill-founded, which he thought it right to urge on the Mexican Government to induce it to accept this far-distant date.

M. de Saligny observes that it was he who urged this delay in the opening of the new Conferences, in order to have the time to receive from his Government the instructions which he expected.

The Count de Reus then says that, in short, neither the time passed at Vera Cruz, nor the time before the 15th of April, could be considered as wasted, and that this is sufficiently proved by what has just been set forth.

Lastly, all was going on favourably, and there was reason to hope that every satisfaction intended by the Convention of London would be obtained by pacific means, when the packet for the month of February arrived, bringing General Almonte and some other exiles, and casting the apple of discord before the Conference.

In a visit made to his Excellency by General Almonte, the latter had declared to him frankly that he counted on the influence of the three Powers to change the established Government of Mexico into a Monarchy, and to place the Crown on the head of the Archduke Maximilian of Austria; that he thought this project would be well received in Mexico, and perhaps realized before two months were over.

Commodore Dunlop observes that a few days afterwards M. Almonte made the same declaration to him.

His Excellency the Count de Reus had answered General Almonte that he was of an opinion diametrically opposite, and that he must not count on the support of Spain; that Mexico, constituted as a Republic for forty years, must necessarily be anti-monarchical, and would never accept new institutions with which it was unacquainted, and which were contrary to those which it had adopted, and under which it had existed so long.

On the observation of General Almonte that he felt sure of the support of the French arms, his Excellency answered that he would regret if the French Government were to follow in Mexico a policy which would be in opposition to the policy always great, just, and generous, of the Emperor; that in the event, far from probable, but still possible, of a check sustained by the French forces engaged in such an undertaking, his Excellency would feel as much pain as if a great misfortune were to fall on his own country or on himself; that lastly, he conjured General Almonte not to go forward, for if he went alone, exiled as he was by a Decree, just or unjust, he was going to destruction, and if he was escorted by the troops of one of the allied Powers, this fact would produce an alarm which would compromise the results of the good policy followed up to this day by the Commissioners.

Soon, however, the arrival of more French troops was known at Orizaba and at Tehuacan; but at the same time it was known that, at the order of General de Lorencez, a battalion of Chasseurs was escorting General Almonte and his companions on the road from Vera Cruz to Tehuacan. Admiral Jurien thought it right in consequence to let the

Mexican Government know of his resolution to commence on the 1st of April the retrograde movement foreseen in the Preliminaries of Soledad if the Conferences did not come to a satisfactory result.

Admiral Jurien explains, that first of all he confined himself to causing an indirect intimation of his resolution to be given to the Mexican Government, and that he only addressed it an official note on this subject after having received himself from General Zaragoza a letter which left him no longer any hope of obtaining from the Conferences of Orizaba a result conformable to the interests and dignity of France.

The Count de Reus remarks that at this time only himself and his English colleague were at Orizaba, and that on receiving the communication of the Admiral they asked themselves if the French Commissioners had the right to allow the enemies of the Government established in Mexico to be escorted, and if the Admiral could act as he was doing without a decision of the Conference; for they considered this line of conduct as equivalent to a declaration of war, and contrary to the Convention of London and to the Preliminaries of La Soledad; that they had agreed in thinking that the French Commissioners had not the right to adopt this line of conduct without the consent of their colleagues, and that they had in consequence immediately invited the Conference to assemble, in order to decide whether they should continue to act conformably to the Convention of London, or whether instructions from their Government prevented the French Commissioners from henceforth acting with their colleagues, in order that in this case each might proceed in the manner which he thought would best answer the wishes of his Government.

"For my part," adds his Excellency, "I beg my colleagues to be good enough to give their opinion decidedly on these points, for that is the principal object of this Conference."

His Excellency Admiral Jurien answers that he does not consider himself as having in any way infringed the stipulations of the Convention of London, or of the Preliminaries of La Soledad.

He had considered the protection accorded to General Almonte by General Lorencez as incompatible with the stay of the French troops at Tehuacan.

The vessel which carried the Commander of the expeditionary corps and his staff, adds M. de Saligny, by order of the Emperor waited for General Almonte for four days.

Admiral Jurien sets forth that his retreat from Tehuacan was only a scruple of loyalty on his part, on which subject he was not obliged to consult his colleagues. Once returned to Paso Ancho with his troops, he would find himself on a neutral territory, where he was free to give to General Almonte all the protection to which a person honoured with the goodwill of His Majesty the Emperor had a right.

The Count de Reus and Sir Charles Wyke desire that the question may be thoroughly examined, and maintain that the French Commissioners have not the right to lend their protection to the enemies of the Mexican Government on its own territory. The expedition did not come to sustain in Mexico the particular policy of each of the three nations, but exclusively that indicated by the Convention of London. None of the Commissioners has the right to act in such grave cases without the assent of his colleagues.

The Admiral repeats that he reserves to himself the interpretation of the Convention of London, and accepts all the responsibility, in the same manner as this right belongs to each of the Commissioners, without that being able in any way to bind the Governments which have concluded this Convention; the French Commissioners act, therefore, conformably to the interpretation which appears best to them, and assume beforehand all the responsibility of their acts.

Sir Charles Wyke asks that Article II of the Convention of London should be read, and Admiral Jurien persists in thinking, after having heard it, that if there has been any infraction of the Convention, it was not in the protection accorded to General Almonte, but in the excessive mildness and the great consideration towards the Government of Mexico; that, besides, this policy does not seem to have been favourably viewed in Europe. The course advised by M. de Saligny would have been, he thinks, more conformable to the intentions of the Government of the Emperor.

Sir Charles Wyke then says that, since the commencement, the negotiation has been carried on with the *de facto* Government; that this change of attitude might be considered as inconsistent, and that the protection accorded to the proscribed individuals constitutes a veritable interference in the internal affairs of the country.

Admiral Jurien answers that the protection accorded to General Almonte is only that of the French flag, which never anywhere failed exiles of any country; that it does not in any way constitute an interference in the internal affairs of the Republic, and that once accorded, there is no instance of this protection having been withdrawn.

The Count de Reus says that this protection is exercised for conquered persons, and those who are in danger, but that it is not admissible for people arriving from abroad with intentions hostile to the established Government, and with which the allies have opened negotiations.

The Admiral answers that General Almonte, who shared the opinion generally prevalent in Europe that war was being carried on in Mexico, had come there not with hostile intentions, but, on the contrary, in a spirit quite pacific and conciliatory, in order to inculcate concord in the different parties, to which his antecedents already recommended him; to explain to his countrymen the benevolent views of Europe towards them, and to avoid every misunderstanding;—a mission for which he was rendered fit by the posts which he had so honourably occupied, by his relations with, and the esteem of, the Emperor; that the reasons which the Count de Reus had given, in support of his opinion, on the impossibility of establishing Monarchy in Mexico, appeared to him, on the contrary, favourable to this radical change of institutions, since those adopted by Mexico had only made her the prey of continual revolutions, and led her to the deplorable state in which she is at present.

To this Sir Charles Wyke replies that he considers it strange that General Almonte should speak in the name of the three allied Powers, for he does not bear any representative character from England and Spain, and is in no way the interpreter of the Convention of London.

Admiral Jurien does not think that General Almonte has ever manifested such pretensions; and the Count de Reus reports again the conversation which he had with General Almonte at Vera Cruz, adding that the latter then alleged that he had offered the Mexican throne, in the name of his fellow-countrymen, to the Archduke Maximilian, who seemed disposed to accept it.

This declaration, made to the Plenipotentiary of the Queen, Commander-in-chief of the Spanish forces, as well as to Commodore Dunlop, could not pass as a simple conversation, and as nothing was more opposed to the spirit of his instructions, it was not possible for him to co-operate for the success of like projects.

The English Commissioners entirely share the opinion of their Spanish colleague.

M. de Saligny insists, on this point, that it is impossible to deny that the real and principal object of the Convention was to obtain satisfaction for the outrages heaped on foreigners by the Mexican Government, and to enforce its observance of Treaties; that the temporizing and conciliatory system hitherto pursued was condemned by what was daily occurring, inasmuch as the reign of extortions, tyranny, and violence, had been made doubly oppressive, and rendered the situation of foreigners quite intolerable; that proofs of this were continually afforded by complaints daily sent in to him that the attitude of the allied forces appeared to have stimulated the Government to redoubled audacity; that, for his part, he formally declared that he would not treat with that Government; and that his well-matured opinion was that it was necessary to march upon Mexico.

The Count de Reus thinks what M. de Saligny has just said unjust, and Sir C. Wyke supports this opinion. If the Mexican Government hesitated some time to meet the wishes of the allies, it was because it could not consider at first in the light of friends the three Powers who occupied the port whence it drew all its resources; but after more or less hesitation its resolutions have always been satisfactory.

There was, however, a moment when the Plenipotentiaries of England and Spain thought that it would be necessary to change their attitude towards the Government of Mexico; they wrote in this sense to M. de Saligny and to Admiral Jurien, and they acted upon the assurance given to Sir Charles Wyke in a letter from Mexico, that the tax of 2 per cent. continued to be exacted from foreigners, and on the threat made by M. Doblado in a letter which he wrote to the Count de Reus to interrupt anew the communications between Vera Cruz and the interior, if the Custom-house was not restored to the Mexican authorities.

Some days after the Mexican Ministers Señor Gonzales Echeverria and Don Jesus Teran, furnished with full powers, arrived at Orizaba, listened to the complaints of the English and Spanish Commissioners, renounced, after making great difficulties, the levying of 2 per cent. on foreigners, promised the withdrawal of the Decree interrupting the communications between Vera Cruz and the interior, and made known the intention of the Government to comply with all the just claims of the allied Powers. If these promises were not kept, when the day came it would be time enough then to declare war; but it must not be done from futile motives, which would not be justified before the grand tribunal of the civilized world.

Why, adds the Count de Reus, do the French Commissioners refuse to believe these solemn promises? Why will they not consent to put the sincerity of the Mexican Government to the proof, when they had only six days to wait?

The Count de Saligny maintains his opinion and assumes all the responsibility; his opinion is founded on the grievances, every day more numerous, of which his countrymen complain constantly, as well as the Spaniards, from whom he has received (he does not know why) a great number of claims which should have been addressed to the Count de Reus, and which will be remitted to him by his colleague as soon as he can open the packet of papers in which they are.

Sir Charles Wyke is astonished that the news of these vexatious proceedings should not have reached him, and asks of what nature they are, and against whom they have been committed. M. de Saligny answers that French subjects have naturally not gone to the British Legation in order to make known their claims.

Sir Charles Wyke desires to know if it is true that M. de Saligny had said that he considered the Preliminaries as of no more value than the paper on which they were written, and the latter answers that he never could have had the least confidence in what emanated from the Government of Mexico, neither in the Preliminaries nor in its other engagements.

Commodore Dunlop asks M. de Saligny why he put his signature to them, and how it happens that he does not consider himself bound.

To this the French Commissioner answers that he has no explanations to give to the Conference respecting the motives which prompted him to sign the Preliminaries, but that he should have thought himself solemnly bound by his signature, if the Government of Mexico had not taken care to nullify in a thousand ways the Preliminaries of La Soledad.

The Count de Reus then questions M. de Saligny respecting a personal transaction: the latter appears to have said to Colonel Menduina, Governor of Vera Cruz, and to M. Cortez, Consul for Spain in the port, that the Count de Reus only found fault with the projects of Mexican Monarchy in favour of the Archduke because he himself aspired to get himself crowned Emperor of Mexico; and he appears even to have declared that he possessed proof of this. The Count de Reus exclaims loudly against such an assertion, and summons his colleague to give explanations on the subject, adding that such an absurd report in the mouth of the public would not have possessed any importance, but that coming from M. de Saligny it acquired a serious aspect; and that, lastly, if proofs existed of this he insisted on their production.

The French Commissioner remembers, it is true, having spoken in this sense; but he only repeated what was publicly reported. The proofs to which he had alluded were, in the first place, a letter, seen also by the Admiral, written by a person altogether a partizan of his candidature to the Throne of Mexico; in the second place, the insinuations which might make it supposed that the Emperor was favourable to this project; lastly, the articles of the journal "*El Eco de Europa*," to which M. de Saligny would not have attached the slightest importance if his Excellency the Count de Reus had not declared before the Conference at Vera Cruz that this journal did not venture to print a single word without having received the previous approbation of his Excellency.

M. de Saligny remembers also that a word of the Count de Reus had forcibly struck him. He appears to have said to him that the candidature of an Austrian Prince for Mexico was absurd; that, perhaps, there might be some chance for a soldier of fortune.

The Count de Reus declares that he alluded to a Mexican soldier soldier of fortune; that he had never authorized anybody to attribute to him such a senseless project, nor to support it; that it is very true that "*L'Eco de Europa*" printed absolutely nothing without his approval, but that nothing would be found there relating to his being a candidate for the Throne of Mexico. He is severely hurt by these suppositions; if Mexico were offered to him with all its riches, he would not take it at any price, for he infinitely prefers the position which he has made for himself in Spain. The treasures which he appreciates above everything, and which suffice for his ambition, are the goodwill of his Sovereign and the esteem of his fellow-countrymen.

On the observation of the French Commissioners that there was nothing in all this painful to the feelings of the Count de Reus, the latter replies that it was doing injury to his well-known loyalty to suppose that he harboured in secret such projects.

The Count de Reus desires to return to the principal object of the Conference, that is to say, that it should be decided if all the Commissioners should continue to act in concert, according to the terms of the Convention of London, or if his French colleagues were going to adopt another line of conduct.

These latter answer that they will continue to conform scrupulously to the Convention

of London, but that they will act in virtue of the interpretation which they find the best, as is their right and their duty.

The Secretary of the Spanish Mission read a note of M. Doblado, demanding the re-embarkation of General Almonte and his companions.

Admiral Jurien read the answer of the French Commissioners, who cannot comply with the demand of the Mexican Government.

The Commissioners of England and Spain do not approve of the draft submitted by the Admiral to their approbation.

Admiral Jurien declares that he has never seen in any country of the world the system of terror weighing on the population, and keeping them under a yoke of iron, which he has seen in Mexico. It is oppression in its most odious shape, tearing a father from his children, a son from his family, under the most futile pretext, arbitrarily despoiling owners of their property, and stifling the most timid manifestations of public opinion.

He cites, among other instances, the dismissal of General Uraya, and the arrest of General Cenobio, who was on the point of being shot for having had very trifling relations with the allies whilst the negotiations were being still carried on.

M. de Saligny supports what his colleague has just said.

Sir Charles Wyke is of a contrary opinion. He thinks that a majority are favourable to the present Government, and that it would be difficult to find partizans of a Monarchy.

Admiral Jurien puts aside any projects with respect to the Archduke Maximilian. There is no question at present of a Monarchy; that is a contingency only, of which there should be no question until after the consideration of the urgent necessity that the country should have a moral and respected Government, which shall not smother by systematic oppression the free expression of the desires of the intelligent and moderate part of the nation.

This majority exists, but it takes care not to show itself and manifest its opinion, for it has possibly had reason to believe that the allied Commissioners were hostile to it.

Count de Reus replies, that there was no reason to attribute to them any such hostility. At Havana he declared to General Miramon, Dr. Miranda, and to an accredited agent of Marquez and Zuloaga, his intention of treating with the Government established at Mexico, and not with guerillas; he told them plainly that those guerillas had only to go speedily into Mexico and constitute themselves into a Government, and that then they would be treated with: that would have been easy for them, since all the forces of President Juarez were then on the coast of Vera Cruz.

Admiral Jurien thinks that the persons really deserving any sympathy are those who, without belonging to the old division of extreme parties, without being in arms, can be found everywhere in the capital, in the towns, in the country districts, groaning under oppression, not daring to breathe, but sincerely desiring order and tranquillity; this party, which desires our support, we shall find everywhere the day that it is at liberty to declare its true feelings. The Government of the Emperor, well informed on this point, wishes, in consequence, to march on Mexico, and such is the determination of the French Commissioner.

M. de Saligny says that his countrymen groan also under this oppression, and that he has received several petitions requesting the speedy march of the French troops upon Mexico, which they consider to be their only means of safety, and the only remedy for the evils from which they suffer, and to prevent the accomplishment of their ruin.

Commodore Dunlop thinks that the French residing at Mexico would see with great displeasure the march of the French army upon the capital.

Sir Charles Wyke thinks that amongst the persons who direct the affairs of the Government of the Mexican Republic, there are distinguished members of the true Moderate party, and that the line of conduct hitherto pursued by the allied Commissioners was the best fitted to consolidate a Government that was accepted by every one.

The English and Spanish Commissioners think that it is impossible to agree if their colleagues do not act strictly according to the Convention of London and the Preliminaries of Soledad.

M. de Saligny replies that if there is any infraction of the Preliminaries, it is not on the part of the Commissioners, but on the part of the Mexican Government itself.

Sir Charles Wyke again refers to the Convention of London, and Count de Reus reads the reply of M. Billault to the questions addressed to him by M. de Boissy in the Senate upon the affairs of Mexico. The substance of this reply is, that the Convention of London determines the line of conduct for the allied Powers.

Count de Reus maintains the right of the Mexicans to oppose any alteration of their institutions which it might be attempted to impose on them.

The Admiral declares that he feels no sympathy for a Government to which we came to preach peace and conciliation, and which only recognizes our conciliatory attitude towards it by allowing sanguinary executions, and publishing edicts of proscription.

The English and Spanish Commissioners declare that they cannot agree with their colleagues of France if the Admiral persists in carrying out his retrograde movement, and they strongly attack that determination, which they consider to be contrary to reciprocal engagements.

The Admiral replies that armistices can always be declared terminated by one of the parties. "I am bound," he says, "to retire in case of rupture, but to nothing more. I now find the rupture fully justified, and I retire: my resolution does not in any way bind my colleagues, but it is in accordance with my interpretation of the Convention, and I assume all the responsibility of it towards my colleagues, my Government, and the whole world."

The Count de Reus says that there can be no armistice where there has been no war; and M. de Saligny replies that there had been war from the moment that Vera Cruz had been occupied.

He repeats that he considers the march of the troops upon Mexico as indispensable to the security of his countrymen, every day the victims of detestable outrage, and declares once more his unalterable resolution to treat no more with the Government of President Juarez.

The English and Spanish Commissioners reply that they are unaware of any motive that could justify this resolution; that they were not in a position to accept the reply addressed by the French Commissioners to M. Doblado, and could not affix their signature thereto.

They declare that if their colleagues of France persist in opposing the removal of the Mexican exiles, and in refusing to take part in the Conferences which were to take place at Orizaba on the 15th of April, they will retire, together with their troops, from Mexican territory, considering this line of action as a violation of the Convention of London and of the Preliminaries of Soledad.

Admiral Jurien then says that whichever of the three Powers remains in Mexico will be able to act in the interest of the allies, and the English and Spanish Commissioners reply that it belongs to their Governments alone to decide this question, and that as for themselves they are not authorized to accept this offer.

They then discuss the manner of and the period for the evacuation of the territory by the Spanish and English forces.

Admiral Jurien offers the vessels at his disposal to aid in the transport of the Spanish troops.

The Count de Reus does not think proper to accept this offer, as all the necessary material will be sent to him from Havana; and if necessary he will avail himself of the English vessels placed at his disposal by Commodore Dunlop.

Notice of the resolutions adopted is given, during the sitting, to the Government of Mexico and to General Zaragoza.

This *procès-verbal* has been read in the presence of their Excellencies Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, the Count de Reus, Admiral Jurien, and Commodore Dunlop (the Count de Saligny being absent in consequence of indisposition), and they have found it correct and approved it.

Orizaba, April 11, 1862.

(Signed)

JUAN ANTO. LOPEZ DE CEBALLOS, *Secretary of the Mission of Her Catholic Majesty.*

COUNT A. DE LA LONDE, *Secretary of the Legation of France.*

JOHN WALSHAM, *Acting Secretary of Her Majesty's Legation.*

No. 120.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, April 12, 1862.

CONVINCED of the necessity of promptly conveying to your Lordship the fullest and most detailed information relative to the events now passing in Mexico, I have deemed it advisable to send home, as the bearer of these despatches, Mr. Horace Johnston, Second Paid Attaché of Her Majesty's Mission, who is ready to offer any explanation that may be required with reference to these matters.

From the turn affairs have now taken here, things revert to the state they were in before the intervention was undertaken, when I was desired by your Lordship to leave Mexico with all the members of Her Majesty's Legation, in order to join the Admiral at the Island of Jamaica.

Suffering severely as I now am from liver complaint, I could neither go there nor to Bermuda, where that officer now is, and I shall therefore proceed to the cooler climate of New York, where I can receive any orders from your Lordship in ten days, and am at the same time within easy distance for communicating with the Admiral.

Under existing circumstances I cannot, of course, go up to Mexico; I cannot remain where I am, for as soon as the French army begins its hostile advance swarms of Mexican cavalry will be down here to cut off their communication with the coast, which, from the smallness of their force, they will not be able to maintain: nor can I remain in Vera Cruz, where yellow fever is now raging, and Europeans rapidly dying from its effects. The "vomito" has set in much earlier, and with greater intensity this year than usual, and will now last more or less until the end of October next.

The English in Mexico are not now likely to be molested, and their interests will be watched over by Mr. Consul Glennie, in whose prudence and judgment I have every confidence.

I propose leaving Vera Cruz with Mr. Walsham for New York direct on the 28th instant in Her Majesty's ship "Challenger," and shall await there your Lordship's further instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 121.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received May 14.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, April 13, 1862, 5 P.M.

I HAVE just received a communication from General Doblado offering to come down here and sign a Convention with me for the settlement of the British claims.

A similar communication has been also addressed by that Minister to General Prim.

We have both individually accepted the proposal made to us, and expect General Doblado down here on the 17th.

The French begin their forward and hostile movement on Mexico about the 23rd, carrying with them General Almonte, Padre Miranda, and the other persons banished by the Government with which they had originally intended to treat at the same time as ourselves.

Whether I succeed in signing a Treaty with General Doblado or not, I still am inclined to proceed to New York, there to await further orders from your Lordship, as if I were to go up to Mexico at present, I should be exposed to suspicion on the part of the French, and probably accused by their Agents here of encouraging and aiding the Mexican Government to oppose a resistance to plans which they know I disapprove of.

General Prim, for similar reasons, will proceed to the Havana, there to await the further instructions of his Government.

The English residents in Mexico will, in the event of my temporary absence, always receive due protection from Mr. Consul Glennie, who has, during the last three months, performed that duty to the entire satisfaction of all his countrymen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 122.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received May 14.)

Sir,

Admiralty, May 14, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of two letters from Commodore Dunlop, dated the 11th April, reporting the circumstances which have induced the British and Spanish Commissioners to withdraw from Mexican intervention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 122.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Orizaba, April 11, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in consequence of the determination of the French Commissioners to disregard entirely the preliminary Convention between General Prim, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, and General Doblado, signed at Soledad on the 19th February, and approved by the Commissioners collectively, without any sufficient cause, as it appears to the British and Spanish Commissioners, and the intention of the French, after having marched their troops back to Paso Ancho, in conformity with Article IV of that preliminary Convention, to move forward on the city of Mexico, taking with them General Almonte, Padre Miranda, and others of the Reactionary Church party, who are proscribed refugees, the British and Spanish Commissioners have considered it their duty to withdraw from the intervention in Mexican affairs, and as soon as possible to embark their troops, and to leave the country.

2. This determination was taken in consequence of what passed at a conference held in this city on the 9th instant, for the purpose of receiving explanations from the French Commissioners of steps adopted by them without consultation with their colleagues, which appeared to the latter entirely at variance with the Convention of London, and which, if joined in by them, would commit their Governments to a policy not contemplated or desirable, nor in unison either with the interests of Great Britain and Spain, or with those of Mexico.

3. I hope to be able to forward a copy of the *procès-verbal* of the Conference alluded to above, which will be the clearest statement of the intentions of the French and the arguments put forward to sustain their recent policy that can be given, and at the same time to add further explanations of my own; but if in the few hours before the departure of Mr. Johnston, Attaché to the British Legation, for England, I should not be enabled to obtain a copy of the *procès-verbal*, I will forward it by the packet of 2nd of May.

4. I shall embark the two Companies of British Marines still in Vera Cruz as soon as possible, and send them to join the battalion at Bermuda; and I have promised General Prim to convey 1,500 Spanish troops to Havana in Her Majesty's ships, as he has not sufficient means of transport of his own, and it is of the greatest possible importance to the health of the troops that they should not be delayed at this season in Vera Cruz.

5. The Spanish troops have already commenced their march towards the Coast; as soon as they have all passed Paso Ancho, the French troops will commence their march on Mexico from that place.

6. I cannot at present give any information as to the line of conduct that will be pursued by the Mexican Government in consequence of this most sudden and unexpected independent policy of the French; but it is to be presumed that it will be looked upon as a declaration of war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

Inclosure 2 in No. 122.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Orizaba, April 11, 1862

WITH reference to my letter of this day's date, I have the honour to add, very hurriedly, as detailed an account of the recent policy adopted by the French Commissioners (as far as I can comprehend it), and of the necessity that, in consequence, has arisen for the withdrawal of the British and Spanish Commissioners from the intervention, as my time will permit.

I must trust to the *procès-verbal* of the proceedings at the Conference to put their Lordships in possession of the arguments used by our late French colleagues to justify their departure from all previous engagements, for I confess myself unable either to enter into them or to understand them.

Previous to my departure from Vera Cruz, the newly-arrived Division of French troops, under General Lorencez, had marched from Tehuacan to join the Division already at that place under Vice-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière; and the General

permitted the Mexican General Almonte, a priest of the name of Miranda, and others of the Reactionist party, to proceed with him under French protection. These persons are all proscribed refugees, not having been included in the amnesty published by the present Government. General Almonte was elected by his party Provisional President of Mexico, and may therefore be looked upon as the ostensible head of the Church party, which is still in arms against the *de facto* Government, under General Marquez, a man whose name is famous, even in Mexico, for the ferocious cruelty of his acts towards foreigners and natives, and for the numerous robberies and extortions he has been guilty of.

General Almonte arrived at Vera Cruz from Paris by the English packet of the 27th February, and is one of the chief promoters of the Monarchy question; although an Indian, he is a man of education and considerable intelligence, and has a character for moderation not generally shared by the rest of his party. The priest well known in Mexico by the name of Padre Miranda, is generally execrated as a cruel unscrupulous intrigant, who has been the chief mover in some of the worst transactions of the Reactionist party.

Although I was, in the absence of my two military colleagues, acting as chief authority in Vera Cruz, General Lorencez did not communicate to me his intention of taking with him these refugees, which act was contrary to the previous agreement of the Commissioners of the three Powers. As soon as I was made aware of it, I wrote to Sir Charles Wyke and General Prim, who were at Orizaba, and communications passed between them and Admiral de la Gravière upon the subject, on their part remonstrating strongly against these proscribed refugees being taken into the heart of the country under French protection without the consent of the Commissioners. The full particulars of these communications I am unacquainted with, but no doubt they will be laid before Her Majesty's Government by Sir Charles Wyke.

The result, however, has been a communication on the part of Admiral de la Gravière to the Mexican Government, stating his intention to disregard the preliminary Convention, approved by himself and the other Commissioners, made between General Prim, on the part of his colleagues, and General Doblado, in conformity with Article IV of that Convention, to retire with his troops to Paso Ancho, with a view to an immediate advance on Mexico.

This communication being tantamount to a declaration of war on the part of the French, and the step having been taken without any previous consultation with their British and Spanish colleagues, was a virtual departure, on the part of the French, not only from all previous engagements between them and their colleagues, but also from all their own engagements with the Mexican Government, as agreed to in the preliminary Convention, immediate steps were taken to assemble the Commissioners at Orizaba, in order that a Conference might be held, with a view to demanding from our French colleagues a full explanation of the cause of their separate action, as well as a declaration whether they had resolved to depart from the spirit of the Convention of October last, signed in London by the Representatives of the three Powers, and which had hitherto been considered as the basis on which rested the policy to be pursued by the allies towards Mexico; and especially to ascertain whether the French Commissioners intended to adhere to that portion of Article II of the said Convention which stipulates that the High Contracting Powers are not "to exercise, in the interior affairs of Mexico, any influence calculated to interfere with the right of the Mexican nation to choose and constitute freely its own form of government."

The French Commissioners did not both arrive in Orizaba until the 9th instant, and on that day the Conference was held which led to the withdrawal of the British and Spanish Commissioners from all further action with those of France, as stated in my previous letter of this day.

My despatches of this date are forwarded by Mr. Johnston, Attaché to Her Majesty's Legation in Mexico, who goes to England for the purpose of giving information on the state of affairs in Mexico.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

No. 123.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received May 16.)

(Extract.)

Paris, May 15, 1862.

M. THOUVENEL disclaimed any intention on the part of the Imperial Government to impose a Government upon Mexico, and he said that this disclaimer had also been made by Admiral Jurien de la Gravière; but I remarked that the effect of this disclaimer must have been very much destroyed by the language held by General Almonte, who assumed to speak with the Emperor's authority.

No. 124.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 17, 1862.

THE very important despatches received from you by the last mail require full consideration, and communication with the Governments of France and Spain. I can only say, at present, that after the rupture between the British and Spanish Commissioners, on the one hand, and the French, on the other, your determination to go to New York was quite right and proper.

In the present state of affairs, it does not appear that any immediate instructions are required for your guidance, if, as I understand, Her Majesty's Marines are entirely withdrawn from Vera Cruz, and all joint action has ceased between the British and Spanish Commissioners, on the one hand, and the French, on the other. It may be taken for granted that no renewed joint action will take place until fresh instructions for that purpose are received from the three Governments concerned.

I have at present no such instructions to give; but Vice-Admiral Milne will hold himself in readiness to obey any instructions which Her Majesty's Government may hereafter give, and I shall be obliged to you to communicate, if you have the means of doing so, this despatch to Vice-Admiral Milne, for his guidance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 125.

Earl Russell to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, May 17, 1862.

THE reports from Commodore Dunlop of the 11th of April, inclosed in the letter from your Lordship's Secretary of the 14th instant, as well as those received from Sir Charles Wyke up to the 12th of April, appear to throw some doubt upon the point whether the Commodore will remain at Vera Cruz after the departure of Sir Charles Wyke and the British Marines, and so be in a position to carry out the instructions which your Lordships will have sent to him in consequence of my letters of the 5th and 8th instant.

From the tenour of those reports, however, it seems clear that all joint action had ceased between the English and Spanish Commissioners, on the one hand, and the French Commissioners on the other, and there does not seem any probability of its having been renewed, at all events as far as the English Commissioners are concerned, without further instructions from home.

It appears, moreover, that the cessation of such joint action has been brought about by the occurrence of the contingency, adverted to in my letter of the 5th instant, of the intended advance of the French troops on Mexico; and therefore, as I stated in my same letter, the execution of the Convention of October 31, 1861, must be suspended, and Vice-Admiral Milne should now be informed that without further instructions it must remain so.

But Vice-Admiral Milne must hold himself in readiness to carry out any instructions which may at any time hereafter be sent to him, in reference to the affairs of Mexico.

I inclose, for your Lordships' information, a copy of an instruction which I have addressed to Sir Charles Wyke,* and to whom I have also sent leave to return from New York to Europe for three months for the recovery of his health.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received May 21.)

My Lord,

Paris, May 20, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship, extracted from the "Moniteur" of this day, an article respecting Mexico.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Extract from the "Moniteur" of May 20, 1862.

LES circonstances qui ont déterminé les dernières résolutions des Plénipotentiaires de l'Empereur au Mexique sont l'objet d'appréciations diverses de la part de la presse Française et étrangère. Il nous semble opportun, afin d'éclairer l'opinion publique, de reproduire ici les clauses de la Convention de Londres et les instructions dont M. de Saligny et le Vice-Amiral Jurien de la Gravière se sont inspirés en renonçant à négocier avec les Plénipotentiaires de M. Juarez et en faisant avancer nos troupes sur Mexico. Nous empruntons ces citations aux documents diplomatiques qui ont été communiqués au Sénat et au Corps Législatif à l'ouverture de la Session.

Voici d'abord le Préambule de la Convention du 31 Octobre, qui indique le double but assigné à l'action commune de la France, de la Grande Bretagne, et de l'Espagne :—

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, et Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, se trouvant placées par la conduite arbitraire et vexatoire des autorités de la République du Mexique dans la nécessité d'exiger de ces autorités une protection plus efficace pour les personnes et les propriétés de leurs sujets, ainsi que l'exécution des obligations contractées envers Elles par la République du Mexique, se sont entendues pour conclure entre Elles une Convention, dans le but de combiner leur action commune, et, à cet effet, ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir, &c."

Les Articles I et II de cette Convention sont ainsi conçus :—

"Article I. Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, et Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, s'engagent à arrêter, aussitôt après la signature de la présente Convention, les dispositions nécessaires pour envoyer sur les côtes du Mexique des forces de terre et de mer combinées dont l'effectif sera déterminé par un échange ultérieur de communications entre leurs Gouvernements, mais dont l'ensemble devra être suffisant pour pouvoir saisir et occuper les différentes forteresses et positions militaires du littoral Mexicain.

"Les Commandants des forces alliées seront, en outre, autorisés à accomplir les autres opérations qui seraient jugées, sur les lieux, les plus propres à réaliser le but spécifié dans le Préambule de la présente Convention, et notamment à assurer la sécurité des résidents étrangers.

"Art. II. Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à ne rechercher pour elles-mêmes, dans l'emploi des mesures coercitives prévues par la présente Convention, aucune acquisition de territoire ni aucun avantage particulier, et à n'exercer dans les affaires intérieures du Mexique aucune influence de nature à porter atteinte au droit de la nation Mexicaine de choisir et de constituer librement la forme de son gouvernement."

Le sens que le Gouvernement de l'Empereur attachait à ces dispositions se trouve fixé dans l'extrait suivant des instructions que le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères adressait le 11 Novembre dernier, à l'Amiral Jurien de la Gravière, et qui étaient communiquées en même temps aux Cabinets de Londres et de Madrid :

"L'intérêt de notre dignité et des considérations puisées dans les circonstances climatériques du littoral se réunissent pour exiger un résultat prompt et décisif. C'est principalement en vue de cette éventualité qu'il est mis à votre disposition un corps de troupes de débarquement qui, joint aux autres contingents militaires, fournira aux alliés les moyens d'étendre le cercle de leur action. Le Gouvernement de l'Empereur admet que, soit pour atteindre le Gouvernement Mexicain, soit pour rendre plus efficace la coercition exercée sur lui par la prise de possession de ces ports, vous puissiez vous trouver dans la nécessité de combiner une marche dans l'intérieur du pays, qui conduirait, s'il le fallait, les forces alliées jusqu'à Mexico même. J'ai à peine besoin d'ajouter qu'une autre raison

pourrait vous y déterminer ; ce serait la nécessité de pourvoir à la sûreté de nos nationaux, dans le cas où elle se trouverait menacée sur un point quelconque du territoire Mexicain que l'on pourrait raisonnablement atteindre.

“ Les Puissances alliées ne se proposent, je vous l’ai dit, aucun autre but que celui qui est indiqué dans la Convention ; elles s’interdisent d’intervenir dans les affaires intérieures du pays, et notamment d’exercer aucune pression sur les volontés des populations, quant au choix de leur Gouvernement. Il est cependant certaines hypothèses qui s’imposent à notre prévoyance et que nous avons dû examiner. Il pourrait arriver que la présence des forces alliées sur le territoire du Mexique déterminât la partie saine de la population, fatiguée d’anarchie, avide d’ordre et de repos, à tenter un effort pour constituer dans ce pays un Gouvernement présentant les garanties de force et de stabilité qui ont manqué à tous ceux qui s’y sont succédé depuis l’émancipation. Les Puissances alliées ont un intérêt commun et trop manifeste à voir le Mexique sortir de l’état de dissolution sociale où il est plongé, qui paralyse tout développement de sa prospérité, annule pour lui-même et pour le reste du monde toutes les richesses dont la Providence a doté un sol privilégié, et les oblige elles-mêmes à recourir périodiquement à des expéditions dispendieuses pour rappeler à des Pouvoirs éphémères et insensés les devoirs des Gouvernements. Cet intérêt doit les engager à ne pas décourager des tentatives de la nature de celles que je viens de vous indiquer, et vous ne devriez pas leur refuser vos encouragements et votre appui moral si, par la position des hommes qui en prendraient l’initiative et par la sympathie qu’elles rencontreraient dans la masse de la population, elles présentaient des chances de succès pour l’établissement d’un ordre de choses de nature à assurer aux intérêts des résidents étrangers la protection et les garanties qui leur ont manqué jusqu’à présent.”

(Translation.)

THE circumstances which have led to the last resolutions of the Emperor’s Plenipotentiaries in Mexico are the object of different opinions on the part of the French and foreign press. It appears to us to be opportune, in order to enlighten public opinion, to now reproduce the clauses of the Convention of London, and the instructions by which M. de Saligny and Vice-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière were influenced in renouncing negotiations with the Plenipotentiaries of President Juarez, and in ordering the French troops to advance on Mexico. We borrow those quotations from the diplomatic documents which were communicated to the Senate and to the Legislative Body at the opening of the Session.

In the first place we give the preamble of the Convention of the 31st of October, which indicates the double object assigned to the common action of France, Great Britain, and Spain :—

“ Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, and His Majesty the Emperor of the French, feeling themselves compelled by the arbitrary and vexatious conduct of the authorities of the Republic of Mexico to demand from those authorities more efficacious protection for the persons and properties of their subjects, as well as a fulfilment of the obligations contracted towards their Majesties by the Republic of Mexico, have agreed to conclude a Convention with a view to combine their common action, and, for this purpose, have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say, &c.”

The 1st and 2nd Articles of this Convention are thus conceived :—

“ Article I. Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, and His Majesty the Emperor of the French, engage to make, immediately after the signature of the present Convention, the necessary arrangements for dispatching to the coasts of Mexico, combined naval and military forces, the strength of which shall be determined by a further interchange of communications between their Governments, but of which the total shall be sufficient to seize and occupy the several fortresses and military positions on the Mexican coast.

“ The Commanders of the allied forces shall be, moreover, authorized to execute the other operations which may be considered, on the spot, most suitable to effect the object specified in the preamble of the present Convention, and specifically to ensure the security of foreign residents.

“ Article II. The High Contracting Parties engage not to seek for themselves, in the employment of the coercive measures contemplated by the present Convention, any acquisition of territory nor any special advantage, and not to exercise in the internal affairs of Mexico any influence of a nature to prejudice the right of the Mexican nation to choose and to constitute freely the form of its government.”

The meaning which the Emperor's Government attached to those arrangements is shown by the following extract from the instructions which the Minister of Foreign Affairs addressed on the 11th of November last to Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, and which were communicated at the same time to the Cabinets of London and Madrid :—

"The interests of our dignity, and considerations drawn from circumstances connected with the climate on the coast, unite in exacting a prompt and decisive result. It is principally with a view to that eventuality that there is placed at your disposal a body of troops for landing, which, with the other military contingents, will furnish the allies with the means of extending the circle of their action. The Emperor's Government admits that, either to reach the Mexican Government or to render more effectual the coercion exercised on it by taking possession of its ports, you may find yourself under the necessity of combining a movement into the interior of the country, which might, if requisite, lead the allied forces as far as Mexico itself. I scarcely need add that another reason might determine you to do so—the necessity of providing for the safety of our fellow-countrymen, in case it should be threatened on any point of the Mexican territory which can be reasonably attained.

"The allied Powers do not, as I have told you, propose to themselves any other object than that which is indicated in the Convention. They interdict themselves from interfering in the internal affairs of the country, and particularly from exercising any pressure on the will of the people as to the choice of their government. There are, however, certain hypotheses which impose themselves on our foresight, and which we have been obliged to examine. It might happen that the presence of the allied forces on the Mexican territory might determine the sensible part of the population, who are tired of anarchy and are eager for order and repose, to attempt an effort to constitute in that country a Government presenting the guarantees of strength and of stability, which have been wanting to all those which have succeeded each other since the emancipation. The allied Powers have a common and too manifest interest in seeing Mexico come out of the state of social dissolution into which she is plunged, which paralyses all development of her prosperity, annuls for herself and for the rest of the world all the riches with which Providence has endowed a privileged soil, and obliges the allies to have recourse periodically to expensive expeditions, in order to remind ephemeral and senseless Governments of their duties. That interest must engage them not to discourage attempts of the nature of those I have just pointed out to you, and you ought not to refuse them your encouragement and your moral support, if, from the position of the men who take the initiative of them, and from the sympathy which they may meet with in the mass of the people, they should present chances of success for the establishment of an order of things of a nature to secure to the interests of the foreign residents that protection and those guarantees which have hitherto failed them."

No. 127.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 22, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your despatch dated from Orizaba the 11th of April, your former despatches relating to General Almonte, and especially the *procès-verbal* of the Conference held at Orizaba on the 9th of April.

Her Majesty's Government regret to find that the hope of agreement between the Commissioners of Great Britain and Spain, on the one hand, and of France, on the other, was completely extinguished, and that Admiral Jurien de la Gravière and M. Dubois de Saligny had determined to march on Mexico, while you and General Prim were of opinion that there was no reason for refusing to meet the Mexican Commissioners in the Conference which had been fixed to meet at Orizaba on the 15th of April.

The differences of opinion among the Commissioners appear to have turned chiefly on two points. The first of these related to the protection given to General Almonte by the French army, and the demand of the Mexican Government that he should be sent back to France. The second point of difference is thus stated by M. Dubois de Saligny, in the Conference of the 9th of April :—

"M. de Saligny insists on this point, that it is impossible to deny that the real and principal object of the Convention was to obtain satisfaction for the outrages heaped on foreigners by the Mexican Government, and to enforce its observance of Treaties; that the temporizing and conciliatory system hitherto pursued was condemned by what was daily occurring, inasmuch as the reign of extortion, tyranny, and violence had been made

doubly oppressive, and had rendered the situation of foreigners quite intolerable; that proofs of this were continually afforded by the complaints daily sent in to him; that the attitude of the allied forces appeared to have stimulated the Government to redoubled audacity; that, for his part, he formally declared that he would not treat with that Government; and that his well-matured opinion was that it was necessary to march upon Mexico."

Her Majesty's Government approve of your conduct on both those points. They consider that the presence of General Almonte in Mexico, under the protection of the French army, might fairly be considered as a provocation to civil war, and Her Majesty's Government could not have approved of a measure having that tendency; for at that time the Government of Mexico was a Government with which the allies were conducting negotiations with a view to a peaceful settlement of their differences.

Her Majesty's Government are also of opinion that you acted rightly when, in answer to M. de Saligny's declaration of his unchangeable resolution not to treat with the Government of President Juarez, you refused to affix your signature to the answer addressed by the French Commissioners to General Doblado, and thereby broke up the Conference, and put an end to the joint action of the three Powers.

Her Majesty's Government greatly regret that the co-operation with France should cease; and they regret, above all, that the hope of the fulfilment of the objects of the Convention of October 31, which might have been attained before the end of April had the Conference met on the 15th, should thus have been abandoned.

Her Majesty's Government have every reason to be satisfied with the determination you took. They concur in the opinions given by General Prim, and are happy to find that the conduct of the Representative of Her Catholic Majesty has been approved by the Government of Spain.

Nor is there any reason to regret the course taken by Her Majesty's Government. Had they delayed asking redress from the Government of Mexico for the wrongs of British subjects, they would have given rise to just complaints from those who are entitled to Her Majesty's protection. Had they pursued their own course separately, and refused to act with France and Spain, they would have produced irritating and unsatisfactory relations, perhaps collisions, between the military and naval forces of the three great European Powers. Had they, on the other hand, evinced an insurmountable repugnance to treat with President Juarez, they would have been wanting in due regard to the independence of the Mexican people.

Had Her Majesty's Government, therefore, taken any other course than that which was adopted, they would have incurred the risk of evils greater even than the separation which has now occurred.

You will understand that while Her Majesty's Government lament the course taken by the Commissioners of the Emperor of the French, nothing has occurred to impair the friendly relations which continue to subsist between the two Governments of Great Britain and France.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

MEXICO.

PART II.

CORRESPONDENCE relating to Affairs in Mexico.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1862.*

LONDON:

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PART III.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

AFFAIRS IN MEXICO.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

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Correspondence relating to Affairs in Mexico.

PART III.

No. 1.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received May 27.)

(Extract.)

Madrid, May 20, 1862.

I HAD an interview with Señor Calderon Collantes by appointment at a late hour last night, in order to learn the result of the consultation which Marshal O'Donnell had informed me in the forenoon was about to be held by the Spanish Cabinet in regard to the affairs of Mexico.

His Excellency informed me that with respect to the decision of General Prim to withdraw the Spanish troops from Mexico, the Spanish Government had come to the conclusion that, much as they regretted a result which divided their action from that of their French allies, and defeated, for the present at least, the objects of the Spanish Government in undertaking a military expedition against Mexico, there was no other course which it was possible for General Prim to pursue under the circumstances.

This opinion, his Excellency added, he had announced as that of the Government in the debate which had taken place that day in the Congress of Deputies.

With regard to General Prim, his Excellency remarked that he believed it was the intention of that Commander to return immediately to Spain, in order to defend himself in his place in the Senate against the attacks which he no doubt felt it was probable would be directed against him.

I then inquired whether his Excellency had any knowledge of Conventions having been signed with General Doblado by the Spanish Plenipotentiary, and whether in that case they would be taken into consideration by the Spanish Government.

Señor Calderon Collantes replied that it was true that the terms of a Convention had been agreed upon between the Spanish Plenipotentiary and General Doblado, although he could not positively say whether it had been actually signed, inasmuch as the movement of the French army had obliged General Doblado to leave Orizaba somewhat suddenly. The terms were such as appeared to be acceptable to the Spanish Government, but then the question presented itself as to the practical application of any such Convention. It was highly probable that the advance of the French forces, whatever ultimate result it might have, would determine the fall of the Government of Juarez; and would not the Spanish Government then have to recommence negotiations with whatever Government might take its place?

In general, M. Calderon Collantes' impression seemed to be that time and the result of the events now in progress must be allowed to determine the position in regard to Mexico of the two Powers whose Representatives had objected to follow the course pursued by the French Commander.

No. 2.

Sir J. Crampton to Earl Russell.—(Received May 27.)

My Lord,

Madrid, May 22, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a précis, in English, of the debate upon the Mexican question.

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B 2

It arose upon a motion of Señor Castro, a member of the "Moderado" Opposition, to ask the Congress to make a declaration censuring the conduct of the Government in regard to the affairs of Mexico.

In the course of this debate, Señor Calderon Collantes expressed the opinion that the decision adopted by General Prim was the only one open to him, and that the Government, therefore, approved of his conduct.

Marshal O'Donnell declined to communicate any of the documents relating to this affair to the Cortes, until circumstances should justify his so doing.

After some remarks by Señores Olozaga and Gonzalez Bravo, criticizing the policy of the Government, the motion was withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN F. CRAMPTON.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Précis of Debate in the Cortes of May 19, 1862.

(Translation.)

THE following motion having been read—

"We ask the Congress to declare that the Government, by not pursuing an active, suitable, and efficacious policy in Mexico, have rendered fruitless the sacrifices made by the nation, and, while compromising its dignity, have facilitated arrangements inconsistent with the interests and dignity of Spain.

"Palace of the Congress, May 17, 1862.

(Signed)

"ALEJANDRO CASTRO.

"FERNANDO PAEZ JARAMILLO.

"JUAN VALERO Y SOTO.

"JUAN VALERA.

"EL CONDE DE SAN LUIS (SARTORIUS).

"JUAN CAVERO.

"MARTIN BELDA."

Señor Castro observed, in allusion to language held by Marshal O'Donnell on a previous occasion, that it was impossible to engage a Parliamentary combat with the present Ministers on the field either of principles or facts, since their principles changed with every fresh arrival of news from Mexico: and, as to facts, why a noble adversary would disdain to attack a fallen foe who had not been thrown, as might happen to the most skilful equestrian, over his horse's ears, but had slipped off ignominiously behind his tail. The motion, therefore, before the House, which had only been laid on the table as a Parliamentary means of enabling Señor Castro to express his opinions on the question of the day, would not be pressed to a division. His charges against the Government were based on facts with which every one was familiar; and, to support those charges, he had no need either of documents or returns. The impotent and vacillating policy of the Government had entailed the withdrawal of the Spanish troops from Mexico; and the withdrawal of the Spanish troops from Mexico was the death-blow of the honour and dignity of Spain. It had been notorious from the first, to every person of common sense, that the real objects of the Convention of London were far different from the trivial ones which had been ostensibly put forward; and not only this, but the Spanish Ambassador in Paris had been made aware, confidentially, of the secret purpose of the triple intervention, and had given it his unofficial assent. General Almonte, too, had been in Spain, and had come to an understanding with the Government as to the ulterior objects to be carried out in Mexico, and the French Press had proclaimed them openly to the world. Nevertheless, the Government had deliberately allowed General Prim to be driven to the step he had taken by an inferiority of force, which left him no possibility of maintaining a different attitude with the French, and had allowed themselves to be taken by surprise, instead of imitating the far-seeing policy of England in withdrawing her forces while it was yet time. Spain, moreover, had stultified herself by going to Mexico to carry out a policy diametrically opposed to that which she had inaugurated in St. Domingo, with the approval of all good Spaniards; a policy which, but for the foresight of a General in whose veins ran Spanish blood, might have ended in a catastrophe. Spain, added Señor Castro in conclusion, and the immense majority of Spaniards, demand that there shall be in America a true Spanish policy; a policy of our own; a policy initiated by Spain, and by Spain carried out, with or without assistance. What they are opposed to is any policy, whatever it may be, which should reduce Spain to the

melancholy, dishonoured, and humiliating position, to the utter prostration, in fact, to which the present Cabinet have reduced her.

The Minister of State (Señor Calderon Collantes), after some sarcastic remarks in reply to the opening part of Señor Castro's speech, and after twitting him with his inconsistency in not pressing a motion which he declared to be of such importance to the country to a division, observed that the motion itself was rash and premature, since Señor Castro was necessarily in complete ignorance of the facts, and that it was contrary to the Parliamentary practice of all constitutional countries to move a vote of censure on a Government before that Government had laid on the table the papers which alone could enable the House to judge of its conduct. The objects of the Spanish Government in signing the Convention of London had been threefold, viz. :—

1. To make no claims not strictly founded in equity. In this they had succeeded so well that all their claims had been accepted.

2. To respect the independence of Mexico, and the right of the Mexicans to choose their own form of government.

3. To observe punctually all the stipulations of the Convention of London, which contained the only obligations by which the Spanish Government were bound.

Of these objects the Government had never lost sight; and in pursuing them they had succeeded in disabusing the public mind of Spanish America on two important points on which there was a prevalent misconception, viz., that Spain was now as weak as she was fifty years ago, and that she was animated by a desire of territorial aggrandisement. As to General Almonte's interviews with Ministers in Madrid, he had been simply told that it was too late, after the Spanish expedition had sailed for Mexico, to enter upon the discussion of any plans he might have formed for the regeneration of his country, and thus the statement that an understanding had been come to with him was entirely unfounded. Indeed, he had been distinctly told that he must not calculate on the support of the Spanish Government in carrying out such plans.

The Government had been charged with want of foresight, but they had in fact provided for every contingency which it was possible to anticipate. General Prim had received ample instructions, and he had acted throughout either in their letter or in their spirit. And with regard to the withdrawal of the Spanish troops from Mexico, the Government were of opinion that in the state at which things had arrived, and looking at the unexpected and serious differences which had arisen between the Spanish and English Plenipotentiaries on the one hand, and the French Representative on the other, the decision adopted in this respect by General Prim was the only one he could have adopted. He could not, under the circumstances, have remained in Mexico without exposing the Spanish troops, the Government, and the nation, to the most serious dangers. The Government, therefore, approved his conduct, and had no objection to state thus much to the Congress, but if they were to be asked to give now the history of the disagreement among the Plenipotentiaries, and to apportion prematurely among them the blame of the result, they should refuse; and in this resolution he (Señor Calderon Collantes) had no doubt the majority of the Chamber would support them.

No. 3.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received May 28.)

(Extract.)

Paris, May 27, 1862.

THE "Moniteur" of this morning publishes the inclosed Proclamation, issued by the French Commissioners to the Mexican people.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Proclamation.

Mexicains,

NOUS ne sommes point venus ici pour prendre parti dans vos divisions; nous sommes venus pour les faire cesser.

Nous voulions appeler tous les hommes de bien à concourir à la consolidation de l'ordre, à la régénération de votre belle patrie.

Pour montrer le sincère esprit de conciliation dont nous sommes animés, nous nous sommes adressés d'abord au Gouvernement même contre lequel nous avons les plus sérieux griefs. Nous lui avons demandé d'accepter notre assistance pour fonder au

Mexique un état de choses qui nous épargne à l'avenir la nécessité de ces expéditions lointaines dont le plus grand inconvénient est de suspendre le commerce et de troubler le cours de relations qui pourraient être profitables à l'Europe et à votre pays.

Le Gouvernement Mexicain a répondu à la modération de notre conduite par des mesures auxquelles nous n'avons jamais entendu prêter notre appui moral, et que le monde civilisé nous reprocherait de sanctionner par notre présence. Entre lui et nous la guerre est aujourd'hui déclarée, mais nous ne confondons pas le peuple Mexicain avec une minorité oppressive et violente. Le peuple Mexicain a toujours droit à nos plus vives sympathies. C'est à lui de s'en montrer digne. Nous faisons appel à tous ceux qui ont confiance dans notre intervention, à quelque parti qu'ils aient appartenu.

Aucun homme éclairé ne voudra croire que le Gouvernement issu du suffrage d'une des nations les plus libérales de l'Europe ait pu avoir un instant l'intention de restaurer chez un peuple étranger d'anciens abus et des institutions qui ne sont plus de ce siècle.

Nous voulons une égale justice pour tous, et nous voulons que cette justice ne soit pas imposée par nos armes. Le peuple Mexicain doit être lui-même le premier instrument de son salut. Nous n'avons d'autre but que d'inspirer à la portion honnête et paisible du pays, c'est-à-dire, aux neuf-dixièmes de la population, le courage de faire connaître ses vœux. Si la nation Mexicaine demeure inerte, si elle ne comprend pas que nous lui offrons une occasion inespérée de sortir de l'abîme, si elle ne vient pas donner par ses efforts un sens et une moralité pratique à notre appui, il est évident que nous n'aurons plus à nous occuper que des intérêts précis en vue desquels la Convention de Londres a été conclue.

Que les hommes trop longtemps divisés par des querelles qui n'ont plus d'objet se hâtent donc de venir à nous. Ils ont entre les mains les destinées du Mexique. Le drapeau de la France a été planté sur le sol Mexicain, ce drapeau ne reculera pas; que les hommes sages l'accueillent comme un drapeau ami! que les insensés osent le combattre.

Les Plénipotentiaires Français au Mexique,
(Signé) DE SALIGNY.
E. JURIEN.

Cordova, le 16 Avril, 1862.

[For Translation, see Inclosure in No. 7.]

No. 4.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.)

Orizaba, April 14, 1862.

FROM various private letters recently received from Mexico, I am inclined to believe that Mr. Corwin is about to sign a Convention, by which the United States' Government will advance the sum of 10,000,000 dollars to that of Mexico, receiving 6 per cent. interest thereon, with good security for its future repayment.

No. 5.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, April 15, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Vice-Consul Giffard, as British Intervenor in the Vera Cruz Custom-house, and in which I instruct him to obtain an authenticated statement of the receipts of that establishment so soon as it is handed over to French administration.

I at the same time inclose copy of my communication to Admiral Jurien, wherein I communicate these instructions to his Excellency and M. de Saligny.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

*Sir C. Wyke to Consul Giffard.**Orizaba, April 17, 1862.*

Sir,
IN consequence of the departure of the Spanish expedition from Mexico, the present employés of the Vera Cruz Custom-house will naturally be withdrawn, and replaced, I suppose, by a French administration.

This change will in no wise affect the position of your Spanish colleague and yourself as Interventors in that establishment, for you were both placed there by the Allied Commissioners in order to watch over your respective national interests, by seeing that a fair and proper division of the receipts should be made in due proportion amongst such persons as are entitled to receive them, in virtue of the Treaty stipulations existing at the time of our occupation of Vera Cruz, between the Allied Powers and the Republic of Mexico.

When, therefore, the Custom-house of that place is handed over to the French, an authenticated statement of its receipts and payments should be made out and delivered in duplicate to each of the Interventors named and appointed by the Allied Commissioners.

One of these statements you will keep yourself, and the other you will forward to this Legation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

*Sir C. Wyke to Vice-Admiral de la Gravière.**Orizaba, April 17, 1862.*

M. l'Amiral,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of M. de Saligny and your Excellency, copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Mr. Eneas Giffard, at present acting as British Interventor in the Custom-house of Vera Cruz, and I doubt not that the instructions thus conveyed will meet with the entire concurrence of your Excellencies. I have every reason to believe that the Conde de Reus will address similar orders to the Spanish Interventor at that port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

No. 6.

*Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)**Orizaba, April 17, 1862.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour herewith to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of the note addressed by the Allied Commissioners to General Doblado, acquainting him with the result of our final Conference.

A translation of his Excellency's reply is likewise inclosed, and a perusal of it will prove to your Lordship that he was perfectly aware of the real object of our mission here.

As the French Commissioners had already left for Cordova when this note reached us, the Conde de Reus and myself addressed a communication to their Excellencies, inclosing General Doblado's reply.

This communication, as well as the answer we received from our colleagues, I beg to transmit to your Lordship; and I can only regret that Admiral Jurien and M. de Saligny still persist in abiding by their resolution not to treat in any way with the present Government of Mexico.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

*The Allied Commissioners to General Doblado.**Orizaba, le 9 Avril, 1862.*

LES Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Espagne, et de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, ont l'honneur d'informer son Excellence M. le Ministre des Relations Extérieures de la République Mexicaine que, n'ayant pu tomber d'accord sur l'interprétation à donner dans les circonstances actuelles à la Convention du 31 Octobre, 1861, ils ont résolu d'adopter désormais une action complètement séparée et indépendante.

En conséquence, le Commandant des forces Espagnoles va prendre immédiatement les mesures nécessaires pour rembarquer ses troupes.

L'armée Française se concentrera à Paso Ancho, aussitôt que les troupes Espagnoles auront dépassé cette position; c'est-à-dire, probablement vers le 20 Avril, et commencera sur le champ ses opérations.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.

A. DE SALIGNY.
E. JURIEN.

EL CONDE DE REUS.

(Translation.)

Orizaba, April 9, 1862.

THE Plenipotentiaries of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, and of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, have the honour to inform his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mexico that, not having been able to agree upon the interpretation to be given under present circumstances to the Convention of October 31, 1861, they have determined for the future to act quite separately and independently.

Consequently, the Commander of the Spanish forces will at once take the necessary steps to re-embark his troops.

The French army will be concentrated at Paso Ancho as soon as the Spanish troops shall have passed beyond that position, that is to say, probably about the 20th of April, and will immediately commence operations.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
HUGH DUNLOP.

A. DE SALIGNY.
E. JURIEN.

EL CONDE DE REUS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

General Doblado to the Allied Commissioners.

(Translation.)

Mexico, April , 1862.

THE Undersigned, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic, has the honour of replying to the note addressed to him from Orizaba, by the Commissioners of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, His Majesty the Emperor of the French, and Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, acquainting him with the breaking up of the London Convention, and stating that, henceforward, the hitherto-allied Powers would act quite independently one of the other.

It is with deep regret that the Mexican Government has heard of an event which will prevent the Commissioners from fulfilling the solemn engagements entered into by the Convention of La Soledad; not only because it directly affects the good faith of the High Contracting Parties, but because the Government had buoyed itself up with the hope that the approaching Conferences at Orizaba would be the means of satisfactorily settling all pending difficulties, and thus lead up to the establishment of peace, the attainment of which had been one of the chief labours of the Constitutional Cabinet.

Nevertheless, inasmuch as Mexico is fully able to appreciate the noble, loyal, and considerate conduct of the English and Spanish Commissioners, and as, moreover, she is most anxious to use the most conciliatory means for re-establishing, once and for all, her relations with friendly Powers, she is ready, notwithstanding what took place on the 9th instant, to enter into Treaties with the Representatives of Great Britain and Spain; for now, as heretofore, Mexico is willing to afford to these nations due satisfaction for all

just claims, to offer efficient guarantees for the future, and to renew with them, upon firm and lasting bases, her former relations of amity and commerce.

As regards the unjustifiable conduct of the French Commissioners, the Mexican Government will merely now repeat what they said on a former occasion, namely, that Mexico will do justice to all, and will satisfy all such demands as are founded in justice and on international law. But she will defend to the last her independence and her sovereignty; and though she will still, as of old, refuse to play the part of aggressor, Mexico will meet force by force, and will pour out the last drop of her blood in fighting for what, to her, are the two great achievements of the present century—*independence and reform.*

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

MANUEL DOBLADO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

Sir C. Wyke and the Count de Reus to M. de Saligny and Vice-Admiral de la Gravière.

Orizaba, le 14 Avril, 1862.

LES Soussignés, Représentants de Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de Sa Majesté Catholique, ont l'honneur de transmettre à leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français copie d'une note qu'ils viennent de recevoir du Général Doblado en réponse à la communication collective qui lui a été envoyée le 9 de ce mois.

Les Soussignés n'ont pas hésité à accepter l'offre que leur fait le Général Doblado, au nom de son Gouvernement, de réunir à Orizaba, malgré la rupture de la Convention de Londres et des Préliminaires de la Soledad, dans l'espoir d'arriver à une solution amicale des questions à régler entre les Puissance alliées et le Mexique, vu que le Gouvernement est tout disposé à ne repousser aucune des prétentions admissibles des dites Puissances.

Comme la note, et implicitement l'offre du Général Doblado, s'adressent aussi aux Plénipotentiaires Français, c'est à eux à décider la réponse qu'il leur conviendra d'y faire.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

(Translation.)

Orizaba, April 14, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom and of Her Catholic Majesty, have the honour to transmit to their Excellencies the Plenipotentiaries of His Majesty the Emperor of the French a copy of a note that they have just received from General Doblado in reply to the collective communication which had been sent to him on the 9th instant.

The Undersigned have not hesitated to accept the offer which General Doblado has made to them, in the name of his Government, to meet at Orizaba, notwithstanding the rupture of the Convention of London and the Preliminaries of Soledad, in the hope of arriving at a peaceful solution of the questions at issue between the Allied Powers and Mexico, as the Government is quite ready to satisfy all the admissible demands of the said Powers.

As the note and impliedly the offer of General Doblado, are also addressed to the French Plenipotentiaries, it is for them to decide upon the reply which it may appear advisable to make to it.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.
EL CONDE DE REUS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 6.

M. de Saligny and Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to Sir C. Wyke and the Count de Reus.

Cordova, le 15 Avril, 1862.

LES Soussignés, Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, ont l'honneur d'informer leurs Excellences les Représentants de Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de Sa Majesté Catholique, qu'ils ne sauraient

accepter, pour leur part, l'offre adressée aux Commissaires des trois Hautes Puissances par le Général Doblado.

Il est tout naturel que les Représentants de Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de Sa Majesté Catholique accueillent cette proposition, s'ils demeurent encore convaincus que le Gouvernement actuel du Mexique a le pouvoir et la volonté de tenir ses promesses et de remplir ses engagements; mais les Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français sont loin d'entretenir la même confiance, et c'est avant tout sur ce point qu'il ne leur est plus permis de méconnaître les intentions formelles de leur Gouvernement.

Quant à l'indépendance du Mexique et à la réforme, M. le Ministre des Relations Extérieures sait mieux que personne qu'elles ne sont point ici en question; et les Représentants de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français saisissent avec empressement cette occasion de repousser des insinuations avec lesquelles on espère en vain passionner un pays qui n'a jamais attendu de notre intervention que l'ordre et la liberté.

Les Soussignés répondent directement à M. le Ministre des Relations Extérieures.

Ils ont honneur, &c.

(Signed) A. DE SALIGNY.
E. JURIEN.

(Translation.)

Cordova, April 15, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Plenipotentiaries of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, have the honour to inform their Excellencies the Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and of Her Catholic Majesty, that they for their part cannot accept the offer addressed to the Commissioners of the three Powers by General Doblado.

It is very natural that the Representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and of Her Catholic Majesty, should accept that proposal, if they are still persuaded that the present Government of Mexico has the power and the will to keep its promises and fulfil its engagements; but the Plenipotentiaries of His Majesty the Emperor of the French are far from possessing the same confidence; and it is, above all, on this point that they cannot any longer misunderstand the express intentions of their Government.

As to the independence of Mexico and the Reform, the Minister of Foreign Affairs knows better than any one else that they are not now in question, and the Representatives of His Majesty the Emperor of the French seize with eagerness this opportunity of repelling the insinuations with which it is hoped in vain to arouse the passions of a country which has never expected from our intervention anything but order and liberty.

The Undersigned are replying directly to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

They have, &c.

(Signed) A. DE SALIGNY.
E. JURIEN.

No. 7.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.)

Orizaba, April 18, 1862.

THE inclosed Proclamation, addressed by M. de Saligny and Admiral Jurien to the Mexican nation, has just been placed in my hands.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

To the Nation.

Mexicans,

WE are here, not to take part in your dissensions, but to stay them. What we desire is, that all men of worth should listen to our call, and unite for the establishment of order and the regeneration of your magnificent country. That we have come here in the true spirit of conciliation is proved by our having addressed ourselves at the outset to the very Government against which we had most serious causes for complaint; and we

begged it to accept our aid in establishing here such a state of things as would in future render unnecessary expeditions like the present one, amongst the principal inconveniences of which is the suspension of commercial, as well as of those other relations which are no less beneficial to Europe than to yourselves; but the Mexican Government met our moderation by the adoption of measures which could not for a moment have received our moral support, nor could we, indeed, have sanctioned them by our presence without incurring the reproach of the whole civilized world. Between that Government and ourselves war has now been declared. Be it understood, however, that we in no way confound the Mexican people with that minority which loves oppression and violence. The Mexican people have always had a claim by right to our best sympathies; let them show themselves worthy of such sympathies! Our call is to those who have confidence in our intervention, no matter what may have been their political bias.

No man of sense will suppose that a Government which owes its origin to the suffrage of a nation, that ranks amongst the most liberal in Europe, could have intended for a moment to re-establish in a foreign country abuses and institutions not of this century. What we require is equal justice for all, and that this justice shall not be set up by means of our arms. The Mexican people should initiate their own salvation. Our sole object is to inspire those who look to honour and peace, that is to say, nine-tenths of the nation, with the value of letting their will be known.

Should the Mexican Government remain inert, should she not understand that we are now affording her an unexpected chance of escaping from the abyss into which she has fallen, should she hesitate to give by an effort on her own part some meaning and some notion of practical morality to our support, it is clear that we shall then have but to occupy ourselves about those actual interests for which the Convention of London was concluded.

Let then all who hitherto have been divided by their senseless quarrels haste to join us; the destiny of Mexico is in their hands; the banner of France floats on the Mexican soil, and there it will float. May men of honour accept it as one of friendship! Let fools venture to attack it!

Cordova, April 16, 1862.

(Signed)

A. DE SALIGNY, E. JURIEN,
Plenipotentiaries of the Emperor of the French in Mexico.

No. 8.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, April 18, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the note of the French Plenipotentiaries to the present Government, announcing their determination not to withdraw their protection from General Almonte and the other political exiles who accompany him.

I likewise forward to your Lordship copy of General Doblado's reply to this communication, and I have only to call your Lordship's attention to the paragraph wherein the Minister for Foreign Affairs states that he is not aware of the fresh grievances which the French Plenipotentiaries complain of; but that if such do exist, their Excellencies ought at once to have brought them to the knowledge of the Mexican Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

M. de Saligny and Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to General Doblado.

Orizaba, le 9 Avril, 1862.

LES Soussignés, Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, ont l'honneur de faire connaître à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Relations Extérieures de la République Mexicaine, en réponse à sa note du 3 Avril courant, réclamant l'éloignement de M. le Général Almonte, qu'il leur est impossible d'acquiescer à cette demande.

Au moment où le Général est parti de France, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur ne mettait point en doute que les hostilités ne fussent depuis longtemps engagées entre nos armées et les armées Mexicaines. M. Almonte s'offrit alors pour aller porter à ses compatriotes des paroles de conciliation, et pour leur faire comprendre

le but tout bienveillant que s'était proposé l'intervention Européenne. Ces ouvertures furent accueillies par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté, et le Général fut non-seulement autorisé, mais invité, à se rendre au Mexique, pour y remplir cette mission de paix à laquelle l'avaient si bien préparé ses antécédents honorables, son extrême modération, et l'estime dont il n'a cessé de jouir aussi bien au Mexique que dans les diverses Cours étrangères où il a représenté son pays.

Arrivé à Vera Cruz, le Général se trouva en présence d'une situation que personne en Europe n'avait pu prévoir. Un armistice avait été conclu, des négociations étaient engagées. Le rôle du Général n'en restait ni moins important, ni moins facile à définir. Il était évident qu'après les longues guerres civiles qui ont déchiré ce pays, et lorsque, sur divers points du territoire, la résistance armée tenait encore les forces du pouvoir en échec, la voix d'un homme étranger aux passions des partis et investi de la confiance d'un des Gouvernements alliés, avait le droit de demander à être entendue. Le Gouvernement suprême de la République, sans vouloir comprendre tous les avantages qu'il aurait pu retirer, en cette occasion, d'une conduite plus prudente et plus modérée, crut n'avoir rien de mieux à faire pour consolider sa situation que de renouveler ces édits de proscription qui rappellent si tristement les plus mauvais jours des révolutions Européennes. Cette fâcheuse résolution fut notifiée aux Commissaires des trois Hautes Puissances. Les Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français se sont abstenus d'y répondre; et M. le Général Almonte, dont la vie était menacée jusque dans Vera Cruz, suivit, à Cordova, un des bataillons Français qui se dirigeait vers les cantonnements de Tehuacan. Le Gouvernement suprême de la République proteste, aujourd'hui, contre cette démarche. Il a dû prévoir la réponse des Plénipotentiaires de l'Empereur. Le drapeau Français a déjà abrité bien des proscrits. Il est sans exemple que sa protection une fois accordée ait été retirée aux hommes qui l'avaient obtenue.

Les Soussignés ont eu le regret d'avoir à constater, depuis le jour où a été conclue la Convention de la Soledad, de nouvelles vexations exercées entre leurs nationaux. Jusque sous leurs yeux des mesures violentes ont été adoptées, en vue d'étouffer l'expression des vœux du pays et de la véritable opinion publique. On espérait ainsi réussir à donner le change à l'Europe et lui faire accepter le triomphe d'une minorité oppressive, comme le seul élément d'ordre et de réorganisation que l'on pût trouver encore au Mexique.

Les Soussignés demeurent convaincus que, s'ils persévéraient dans la voie où le désir d'éviter l'effusion du sang les a engagés, ils s'exposeraient à méconnaître les intentions de leur Gouvernement et à devenir involontairement les complices de cette compression morale sous laquelle gémit aujourd'hui la grande majorité du peuple Mexicain.

En conséquence, ils ont l'honneur d'informer son Excellence M. le Ministre des Relations Extérieures que les troupes Françaises, laissant leurs hôpitaux sous la garde de la nation Mexicaine, se replieront au delà des positions fortifiées du Chiquihuite, pour y reprendre toute leur liberté d'action, aussitôt que les dernières troupes Espagnoles auront évacué les cantonnements qu'elles occupent aujourd'hui, en vertu de la Convention de la Soledad.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Signé)

A. DE SALIGNY.
E. JURIEN.

(Translation.)

Orizaba, April 9, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Plenipotentiaries of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, have the honour to inform his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic, in reply to his note of the 3rd instant demanding the retirement of General Almonte, that it is impossible for them to acquiesce in that demand.

At the time the General left France the Government of His Majesty the Emperor did not doubt that hostilities between our armies and the Mexican armies would long since have occurred. M. Almonte offered his services for the purpose of carrying to his fellow-countrymen words of conciliation, and of making them understand the altogether friendly object that the European intervention had in view. These overtures were accepted by His Majesty's Government, and the General was not only authorized, but invited, to go to Mexico in order to carry out this mission of peace for which he was so well-fitted by his honourable antecedents, his great moderation, and the esteem in which he has always been held, as well in Mexico as at the various foreign Courts where he has represented his own country.

When the General arrived at Vera Cruz, he found a position of affairs which no one in Europe could have foreseen: an armistice had been signed, negotiations were in progress. The part to be taken by the General was not less important, neither was it

less easy to determine. It was evident that, after the long civil wars which have torn the country, and when at several points of the territory an armed resistance held in check the forces of the party in power, the voice of a man who was uninfluenced by party passion, and in possession of the confidence of one of the allied Governments had a right to expect to be heard. The Supreme Government of the Republic, without appearing to understand all the advantages which it could have obtained on this occasion by a more prudent and moderate conduct, has not thought of any better means of consolidating its position than to renew those edicts of proscription which so painfully recall the worst days of European revolutions. That regrettable determination was notified to the Commissioners of the three Powers. The Plenipotentiaries of His Majesty the Emperor of the French refrained from replying, and General Almonte, whose life was threatened even in Vera Cruz, followed to Cordova a French battalion which was marching towards the cantonments at Tehuacan. The Supreme Government of the Republic protests now against that proceeding. It ought to have foreseen the reply of the Emperor's Plenipotentiaries. The French flag has already sheltered numerous proscribed refugees. There is no precedent that its protection, once accorded, has been withdrawn from persons who had obtained it.

The Undersigned have, to their regret, since the day on which the Convention of Soledad was concluded, had to be made acquainted with fresh vexatious acts that have been practised against their fellow-countrymen. Violent measures have been, even before their eyes, adopted with a view of stifling the expression of the desires of the country, and of the real state of public opinion. It was hoped thus to succeed in misleading Europe, and to obtain acquiescence for the triumph of an oppressive minority, as the only element of order and of reorganization that could yet be found in Mexico.

The Undersigned are convinced that if they were to continue to follow the course on which the desire of avoiding the effusion of blood had induced them to enter, they would be open to a charge of disregarding the intentions of their Government, and of becoming involuntarily the accomplices of the moral repression under which the great majority of the Mexican people are now groaning.

They have, consequently, the honour to inform his Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the French troops, leaving their hospitals under the protection of the Mexican nation, will retire beyond the fortified position of Chiquihita, in order there to resume their entire liberty of action, as soon as the last Spanish troops shall have evacuated the cantonments that they are now occupying in virtue of the Convention of La Soledad.

The Undersigned, &c,

(Signed)

A. DE SALIGNY.

E. JURIEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

General Doblado to M. de Saligny and Vice-Admiral de la Gravière.

(French Translation.)

Mexico, le 11 Avril, 1862.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Relations, &c., a l'honneur de répondre à la communication que MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de France lui ont adressée, pour l'informer que les troupes Françaises se replieront sur Paso Ancho afin de recouvrir leur liberté d'action, aussitôt que les forces Espagnoles auront évacué leurs cantonnements actuels, en fondant ce procédé sur leur résolution de protéger le traître M. Juan N. Almonte.

La violation des Préliminaires de la Soledad, consommée par MM. les Commissaires Français, à l'ombre d'un prétexte presque puérile, est injustifiable si on l'examine à la lumière du droit international.

Ni le Gouvernement Constitutionnel ni la nation Mexicaine n'ont eu la nouvelle officielle de la mission que MM. les Commissaires attribuent dans leur note précitée au traître Almonte, et le premier avis qu'on en ait, est l'assertion de MM. les Commissaires.

Ce qui se savait depuis quelque temps par la voix publique, c'était que le traître Almonte, trompant par ses faux renseignements Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Français, travaillait assiduellement à attirer sur sa patrie une invasion armée étrangère qui servit d'appui au parti Réactionnaire vaincu dans ce pays bien plus par la force irrésistible de la volonté générale que par les armes.

Ces rumeurs se sont converties en faits pleinement justifiés, depuis l'arrivée du traître à Vera Cruz, parcequ'alors l'autorité nationale a acquis des preuves convaincantes que ce dernier s'occupait à conspirer contre l'ordre légal généralement reconnu

dans la République, et à stimuler par toute sorte d'intrigues et de promesses les bandes de malfaiteurs qui errent sur quelques points dans les montagnes.

Usant de son droit de Souverain, et appliquant des lois en vigueur rendues antérieurement, le Gouvernement Mexicain a déclaré traître et a mis hors la loi M. Juan N. Almonte, sans qu'il pût jamais lui venir à l'esprit que cet acte d'administration intérieure, qui le concerne exclusivement, peut être invoqué avec empressement comme un motif de rupture par les mêmes Commissaires qui, le 19 Février, en signant les Préliminaires de la Soledad, se sont engagés solennellement devant le monde civilisé à respecter la souveraineté du Gouvernement Mexicain, et à ne s'immiscer dans aucun acte de son administration intérieure.

L'aveu qu'ont fait, dans les Préliminaires, MM. les Représentants de la France, en reconnaissant la légitimité du Gouvernement Constitutionnel, et sa générale acceptation dans la République, est en contradiction ouverte avec les assertions qu'ils font aujourd'hui dans leur note du 9, en attribuant le maintien de cette administration au triomphe d'une minorité oppressive. Cette contradiction notoire fait douter de la sincérité du premier aveu de MM. les Commissaires, et révèle bien l'origine peu digne du second aveu.

Le Soussigné a le regret de repousser comme inexacts les propositions dans lesquelles MM. les Commissaires assurent qu'il a été commis de nouvelles vexations contre leurs nationaux après les Préliminaires de la Soledad. Les autorités subalternes n'ont donné connaissance d'aucun fait notable de cette nature, et s'il en est survenu quelqu'un, il aura été de si minime importance qu'on n'a pas cru convenable de le dénoncer à l'autorité suprême.

MM. les Commissaires Français ont eu la liberté et l'opportunité de réclamer pour quelque faute que ce fût, et leur silence fait présumer que rien n'a surgi qui donnât matière à une réclamation.

Le Gouvernement Mexicain a été et est encore disposé à épuiser les moyens de conciliation pour arriver à un arrangement pacifique qui ait pour base les Préliminaires de la Soledad. Il a rempli, pour sa part, et il continuera de remplir à l'avenir, les obligations qu'il a contractées dans ces Préliminaires, car il comprend combien un acte de déloyauté compromet l'honneur de la nation. Il ne sera pas agresseur, car il suit fidèlement le principe de respecter les nationalités tant qu'on n'a pas recours à d'autres moyens qu'à ceux des Conventions. Mais le Gouvernement Constitutionnel, dépositaire de la souveraineté et gardien de l'indépendance de la République, repoussera la force par la force, et soutiendra la guerre jusqu'à ce qu'il succombe; car il a la conscience de la justice de sa cause, et compte sur ce que, dans ce conflit, il sera puissamment aidé par la valeur et l'amour de la patrie qui caractérisent le peuple Mexicain.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé)

MANUEL DOBLADO.

(Translation.)

Mexico, April 11, 1862.

The Undersigned, Minister of Foreign Affairs, &c., has the honour to reply to the communication which the Commissioners of His Majesty the Emperor of France have addressed to him, in order to inform him that the French troops will retire upon Paso Ancho for the purpose of resuming their liberty of action as soon as the Spanish forces shall have evacuated their present cantonments, whilst they found this proceeding upon their resolution to protect the traitor, M. Juan N. Almonte.

The violation of the preliminaries of La Soledad, committed by the French Commissioners under cover of an almost puerile pretext is unjustifiable, if it is examined by the light of international law.

Neither the Constitutional Government nor the Mexican nation has had official information of the mission that the Commissioners attribute in their said note to the traitor Almonte, and the first notice they had of it, is the assertion of the Commissioners.

What was publicly known some time ago was, that the traitor Almonte, deceiving His Majesty the Emperor of the French by his false information, was assiduously working to bring upon his country a foreign armed invasion, which might serve as a support to the reactionary party which had been vanquished rather by the irresistible force of the general will than by arms.

Those rumours were converted into fully proved facts after the traitor's arrival at Vera Cruz, for then the national authority acquired convincing proofs that this latter was occupied in conspiring against the lawful rule generally recognised in the Republic, and in stimulating by all kinds of intrigues and promises, the marauding bands which are wandering about at a few points in the mountains.

The Mexican Government, using its sovereign right, and acting upon laws already in force, has declared M. Juan N. Almonte a traitor, and has outlawed him, without its

ever occurring to it that this act of internal administration, which concerns it exclusively, could be eagerly invoked as a reason for the rupture by the very Commissioners who, on the 19th of February by signing the preliminaries of La Soledad, solemnly bound themselves, before the civilized world, to respect the Sovereignty of the Mexican Government, and not to interfere in any act of its interior administration.

The Declaration that the Representatives of France made in the Preliminaries by recognising the legitimacy of the Constitutional Government, and its general acknowledgment in the Republic is in direct contradiction with the assertions they now make in their note of the 9th, by attributing the preservation of this administration to the triumph of an oppressive minority. This evident contradiction causes a doubt as to the sincerity of the first Declaration of the Commissioners, and plainly reveals the undignified origin of the second Declaration.

The Undersigned regrets to reject as inaccurate the propositions in which the Commissioners affirm that fresh vexatious acts have been committed against their fellow-countrymen since the Preliminaries of La Soledad. The subordinate authorities have not made known any considerable fact of that nature, and if any has occurred it will have been of so very little importance that it was not thought a proper one for reporting to the Supreme Authority. The French Commissioners have been at liberty and had the opportunity to complain of any wrong act whatsoever, and their silence causes a presumption that nothing has occurred to give occasion for complaint.

The Mexican Government has been and is disposed to exhaust the means of conciliation in order to arrive at a peaceful settlement upon the basis of the Preliminaries of La Soledad. It has for its part fulfilled and will continue to fulfil for the future the obligations which it has contracted in those Preliminaries, for it understands how much an act of disloyalty compromises the honour of a nation. It will not be the aggressor for it faithfully follows the principle of respecting nations as long as no recourse is had to other means than those of Conventions; but the Constitutional Government, the depository of the Sovereignty and the guardian of the Independence of the Republic, will repel force by force, and will carry on the war until it succumbs, for it has the consciousness of the justice of its cause, and relies in this conflict upon being powerfully assisted by the valour and love of country which characterize the Mexican people.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

MANUEL DOBLADO.

No. 9.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord,

Orizaba, April 21, 1862.

LATE last night I received the inclosed note from Vice-Admiral Jurien with reference to the intended blockade by the French squadron under his command of the ports of Tampico and Alvarado.

In acknowledging the receipt of his Excellency's communication, Commodore Dunlop and myself informed him that we would transmit a copy of it to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. LENNOX WYKE.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to Sir C. Wyke and Commodore Dunlop.

Orizaba, le 20 Avril, 1862.

LE Soussigné, Vice-Admiral Commandant-en-chef, a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de leurs Excellences MM. les Ministres Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, qu'ayant pris ses mesures pour assurer, à partir du 1 Mai, le blocus des ports de Tampico et d'Alvarado, il a donné des ordres pour que, sur une simple déclaration du Capitaine que son bâtiment ne transporte pas de contrebande de guerre, le service du paquebot Anglais avec le port de Tampico ne soit entravé en quoi que ce soit.

Le Soussigné a transmis note de cette décision au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Il saisit, &c.

(Signed)

E. JURIE.

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, Vice-Admiral Commanding-in-chief, has the honour to bring to the knowledge of their Excellencies the Ministers Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, that, having taken measures for the establishment of the blockade of the ports of Tampico and Alvarado, beginning from the 1st May, he has given orders that, upon a simple declaration by the captain that his vessel contains no contraband of war, the English mail-steamer shall be in no way hindered in its passage into the port of Tampico.

The Undersigned has sent notice of this decision to the Government of His Majesty the Emperor.

He seizes, &c.
(Signed) E. JURIEN.

No. 10.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.)

THE inclosed Proclamations of General Almonte to his fellow-countrymen have just been placed in my hands.

Orizaba, April 21, 1862.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Proclamations.

El General Juan N. Almonte á los Mexicanos.
Compatriotas,

HACE algunos días que deseaba dirigiros la palabra para instruiros del objeto de mi venida á la República, mas las circunstancias de hallarse pendiente un armisticio y la de encontrarme bajo la proteccion de las armas Francesas, no me permitia hablar, y he debido esperar la oportunidad para verificarlo. Hoy que los Representantes de la Francia haciéndose cargo de la situacion manifiestan los verdaderos deseos de los Gobiernos aliados, me creo en el deber de romper el silencio que contra mi voluntad habia guardado, y que dió lugar á que los enemigos del órden abusasen de él, publicando proclamas apócrifas.

Al volver, pues, al seno de la patria, os diré que no vengo animado de otro sentimiento que el de contribuir á la pacificacion de la República y el de co-operar al establecimiento de un Gobierno nacional, verdaderamente de moralidad y órden, que haga cesar para siempre la anarquía, y que dé suficientes garantías para las vidas y propiedades, tanto de nacionales, como de extranjeros.

Estraño á la sangrienta lucha que por tantos años ha destrozado á nuestro hermoso país, escandalizando al mundo entero hasta el grado de llamar seriamente la atencion de las grandes Potencias Occidentales de Europa, mis esfuerzos se encaminarán siempre á procurar la reconciliacion de nuestros hermanos, y hacer desaparecer de entre ellos los odios y las desavenencias. Por fortuna, para conseguir un objeto tan noble no tengo que desear ninguna venganza, ni tampoco que pedir ninguna recompensa. Premiado suficientemente por la nacion, por los servicios que era mi deber prestarle antes y despues de su independendencia, mi único anhelo, hoy, es el de poderla ofrecer el último y mas importante, antes de descender al sepulcro, y ese servicio es el de procurarle la paz de que ha carecido por tanto tiempo.

Por otra parte teniendo motivo para conocer, como conozco, los deseos de los Gobiernos aliados y especialmente los de Su Magestad el Emperador de los Franceses, que no son otros que los de ver establecido, en nuestro desgraciado país (y por nosotros mismos), un Gobierno firme, de órden y moralidad, para que desaparezcan el pillaje y vandalismo que hoy reinan en todos los ángulos de la República, y para que el mundo mercantil pueda sacar las inmensas ventajas con que le brinda nuestro ferasísimo país por sus riquezas naturales y su situacion geografica, yo he debido apresurarme á venir á él para esplicaros esas sanas intenciones que por otro lado tambien envuelven la filantrópica idea de asegurar para siempre la independendencia, la nacionalidad y la integridad del territorio Mexicano.

Para el establecimiento, pues, de un nuevo orden de cosas, debeis confiar en la eficaz co-operacion de la Francia, cuyo ilustre Soberano hace siempre sentir su benéfica influencia en todas partes donde hay que hacer prevalecer una causa justa y civilizadora.

¡ Mexicanos ! si mis honrosos antecedentes, si mis servicios prestados á la patria tanto en la gloriosa lucha de nuestra independencia como en la direccion de su política en las diversas épocas en que he formado parte de nuestro Gabinete y representado á la nacion en el extranjero, si todo esto, repito, puede hacerme merecer vuestra confianza, unid vuestros esfuerzos á los mios, y tened por seguro que muy pronto lograremos el establecimiento de un Gobierno tal como conviene á nuestra índole, necesidades y creencias religiosas: así os lo asegura vuestro compatriota y mejor amigo

(Firmado) JUAN N. ALMONTE.

El General J. N. Almonte á los pacíficos habitantes de Orizaba.

Compatriotas,

PROCLAMADO por vosotros General en Jefe de las fuerzas nacionales y Jefe Supremo interino de la nacion, mi primer deber es daros las gracias mas espresivas por la confianza que en mí acabais de depositar. Conoceis mis sentimientos, consignados en la proclama que os dirigí desde Córdoba, y ya habeis visto que no os engañé, cuando en ella os aseguré que las gentes honradas debian tener confianza en la eficaz co-operacion de las fuerzas Francesas para el establecimiento de un Gobierno de orden y moralidad.

Así, habeis comenzado desde ayer á disfrutar de los beneficios de esa co-operacion, y así, os veis libres del préstamo forzoso de 200,000 pesos que se preparaba á imponeros el jefe de las fuerzas del Gobierno bárbaro que actualmente existe en la capital de la República para la desgracia y vergüenza de los Mexicanos.

Consolaos, empero, que muy pronto desaparecerá ese Gobierno y que no tardará en tener el placer de volveros á dirigir la palabra desde México, vuestro compatriota y mejor amigo

(Firmado) JUAN N. ALMONTE.

Orizaba, Abril 21 de 1862.

(Translation.)

General Juan N. Almonte to the Mexicans.

Countrymen,

I HAVE been for some days past desirous of addressing you, to inform you of the object of my arrival in the Republic; but the fact that a truce existed, and my being under the protection of French arms has prevented me from speaking, and I have been obliged to wait for an opportunity of doing so. Now that the Representatives of France, understanding the state of things, have made known the real intentions of the allied Governments. I think it is my duty to break the silence which I had maintained against my will, and which allowed the enemies of order to take an unfair advantage of it, by publishing apocryphal Proclamations.

In returning, then, to the bosom of my country, I will tell you that I am actuated by no other feeling than the wish to contribute to the pacification of the Republic, and to co-operate in the establishment of a National Government, really one of integrity and order, which shall put an end to anarchy for ever, and which shall effectually guarantee the lives and properties, as well of natives as of foreigners.

Absent from the sanguinary struggle which has for so many years ravaged our beautiful country, which has so scandalized the whole world to such a point as to call seriously to it the attention of the Great Western Powers of Europe, my efforts will always be directed to the reconciliation of our brethren, and to the extinction of hatred and discord among them. Fortunately, I have no vengeance to wish for, no recompense to demand for obtaining so noble an object. Sufficiently rewarded by the nation for the services which it was my duty to render it, both before and after its independence, my only wish is now to render to it the last service, and the most important, before I go down to my grave, which is to procure for it that peace which has been so long absent from it.

On the other hand, having reason to know, as I do, the desires of the allied Governments, and especially of that of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, which is no other than was established in our unfortunate country, and that by ourselves, a Government strong in order and morality, put an end to the pillage and vandalism which now prevail in every corner of the Republic, and that the commercial world may obtain the immense advantages which our most fertile land holds forth from its natural wealth and geographical position, it was my duty to hasten my arrival, in order to make known to

you those sound intentions, which imply, on the other side, also the philanthropic idea of securing for ever the independence, the nationality, and the integrity of the Mexican territory.

To establish, then, a new order of things, you should trust in the effective co-operation of France, whose illustrious Sovereign always sheds his beneficial influence wherever the object is that a just and civilizing cause should prevail.

Mexicans!

If my honourable antecedents, if the services I have rendered to my country, as well in the glorious struggle for our independence as in the guidance of her policy at the various periods when I formed a part of our Cabinet, or represented the nation abroad; if all this, I repeat, can give me a title to your confidence, unite your efforts to mine, and you may be assured that we shall very speedily obtain the establishment of a Government such as is suitable to our character, our necessities, and our religious belief.

This is the assurance of your countrymen and best friend.

(Signed) JUAN N. ALMONTE.

General J. N. Almonte to the peaceful inhabitants of Orizaba.
My Countrymen,

Being proclaimed by you General-in-chief of the National Forces, and supreme Head of the nation *ad interim*, my first duty is to convey to you my most earnest thanks for the confidence you have just placed in me. You are acquainted with my sentiments, made known to you in the Proclamation which I addressed to you from Cordova, and you will have seen already that I did not deceive you when I assured you in that Proclamation that you might trust in the effective co-operation of the French forces for establishing a Government of order and morality.

Thus, beginning from yesterday, you are enjoying the benefits of that co-operation, and thus you find yourselves liberated from the forced loan of 200,000 dollars which was about to be imposed on you by the Chief of the Forces of the barbarous Government which at present exists in the capital of the Republic, for the affliction and the shame of the Mexicans.

Yet, console yourselves, for that Government will speedily disappear, and he will shortly have the pleasure to address you from Mexico who now subscribes himself, as your countrymen and best friend,

(Signed) JUAN N. ALMONTE.

Orizaba, April 21, 1862.

No. 11.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.)

Puebla, April 29, 1862.

I LEFT Orizaba at mid-day on the 22nd instant, with Commodore Dunlop, Mr. Walsham, and Mr. Consul Glennie, and we reached this place on the morning of the 24th. A house had been provided for our reception, and every possible attention was shown to us by the Governor and the authorities of the town.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day General Doblado himself called, and, during a long interview, he explained how anxious he was, on the part of his Government, to grant that satisfaction and redress to us which he had been prepared to concede during the Conferences that would have been held at Orizaba on the 15th instant, had it not been for what he characterized as the violent and unjustifiable violation of the preliminary Convention of La Soledad by the French Agents. He went on to say that, as they had clearly also violated the London Convention, by openly espousing the cause of the Reactionary faction and sustaining them in their rebellion, he concluded that both the Spanish Agent and ourselves had regained our freedom of action, and were at liberty to treat singly with the Mexican Government, provided that by so doing we could obtain such a settlement of the claims we were bound to support as would prove satisfactory to our respective Governments.

I have already expressed to your Lordship my opinion that he is perfectly sincere in thus expressing himself; as well, also, as my belief that he is the only man who is capable of re-establishing peace and order in the country.

Commodore Dunlop was present at this and the subsequent conferences which I had with General Doblado.

After discussing the question in all its bearings, and considering that we were now

perfectly free agents in arriving at any solution of our pending differences with Mexico which should prove satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government, the Commodore and myself finally signed, yesterday evening, with General Doblado, a Convention which I have every reason to believe will meet with the approval of your Lordship, as its stipulations secure to the London and Convention bondholders the recognition of all former Conventions and Agreements made in their favour; whilst at the same time it gives us the only tangible security which this Government has to offer for the due payment, in specie, of the claims brought forward by British subjects, amounting in all, as far as they are known, to the sum of nearly 3,500,000 Spanish dollars.

The basis on which this arrangement is concluded is a Convention lately signed by Mr. Corwin, the United States' Minister here, with the Mexican Government, by which the latter are to receive from the Government at Washington a loan of 11,000 000 dollars, at 6 per cent. interest, guaranteed by a mortgage on the waste lands and the remainder of the Church property still disposable.

Should this Treaty be ratified, the first instalment of 2,000,000 dollars, which is to be immediately received by the Mexicans, is to be handed over to us in order to pay off the privileged class of claimants, to whom is due, according to our calculation, about 1,700,000 dollars.

As our list of acknowledged claims does not agree with that furnished by the Mexican Government, General Doblado is anxious for us to decide which claims are really entitled to be placed in the first, or privileged class, and for them then to be paid out of this first instalment of 2,000,000 dollars.

The remainder of the 11,000,000 dollars to be received from the United States are to be paid within the term of sixteen months, we receiving a fourth part of each instalment as it becomes due, until the liquidation of all the claims comprised in the second class, the whole of which are to be submitted to the verification of a Mixed Commission, composed of one English and one Mexican Commissioner, whose differences, should any exist, are to be settled by the fiat of an umpire, whose decision is to be final.

Should the Convention above alluded to not be ratified by the Cabinet of Washington, then the same lands and Church property, offered to them as a guarantee, are to be sold by a Commission appointed for the purpose by the Mexican Government, and the proceeds thereof are to be immediately applied to the liquidation of the English claims, in accordance with the decision of the aforesaid Mixed Commission.

According to our calculation, the first or privileged class of claims, including those of the Legation robbery and the Laguna Seca, will amount to about 1,700,000 dollars, which will thus come within the 2,000,000 dollars set apart for their immediate liquidation.

Most of these claims are acknowledged by the Mexican Government to their full amount, but others are not; whilst some of those in the second class are stated by General Doblado as belonging to the first.

As it was impossible, away from the archives of the Legation, to clear up this question on the spot, it was decided that all the claims were to be submitted to the Commissioners when, on proper proof being adduced, their classification would become complete, and we should then pay those justly entitled to preference out of the 2,000,000 dollars at once made over to Her Majesty's Government, as being more than the amount required for their liquidation. This will account for the reason why I have been obliged to depart from your Lordship's instructions with reference to this matter, as conveyed to me in your despatch of the 30th of March, 1861.

With regard to the claims of the London and Convention bondholders, they will be paid as heretofore out of the 59 per cent. of duties payable at the Vera Cruz and Tampico Custom-houses, besides what belongs to them from the Pacific Custom-houses when the proceeds of the latter become available for that purpose.

I have got an Interventor placed already at Vera Cruz: and the stipulations of the Convention give the real *bonâ fide* powers of one at all the ports of the Republic where we have Consular Agents, or where I may name any such for the purpose specified. This is a great step in advance, as we have hitherto had no means of knowing what duties were really collected in any of the ports except the two above named.

By this arrangement we have obtained all the real power we want, without at the same time risking the ratification of the Convention, and wounding the national pride, by the hateful word "Interventor," which I have found so constant an obstacle in the way of anything like a satisfactory arrangement of this vexed question.

The obliging the importers to pay that part of their duties owing to the bondholders, in "bonos," secures the latter from the frauds hitherto practised on them by unprincipled merchants paying only half their duties in ready money to the Customs authorities, who

preferred that mode of settlement to having to wait the proper time for the receipt of the whole sum legally due to them.

General Doblado is, as I have already informed your Lordship, invested with full power by the Congress to conclude any Treaty with foreign Governments, so that their sanction is not necessary, the ratification of the President being alone required. This is a mere matter of form, which General Doblado assures me will be gone through to-day on his arrival at Mexico, for which city he started this morning at 4 o'clock.

I herewith inclose a copy of the English version of the Treaty for your Lordship's information, not having time to have a regular copy of the whole document made out, for the English mail will leave in a couple of hours' time, thus preventing me from analyzing each separate Article as I should have wished to do.

Directly I hear of the Convention having been ratified by the President, I shall repair to Mexico; as, although that course is attended with some inconveniences, yet, on the whole, I consider it better for me to repair to my post under such critical circumstances as the present.

I have acted in the whole of this affair on my own responsibility, and to the best of my judgment, for the good of Her Majesty's service, and I only trust that my conduct may merit your Lordship's approval.

Everything I have latterly done has been based, of course, on the direct violation of the London Convention by the French Agents, which, in the opinion of Commodore Dunlop and myself, has restored us to a perfect freedom of action, in forwarding those important interests which have been intrusted to our charge.

I should be ungrateful were I not to state how much I have been indebted to his able co-operation with me on every occasion, when I have profited by the great experience and sound judgment he has invariably displayed throughout the whole of this trying business.

Should your Lordship approve of the Convention, the original of which I will send home as soon as possible, its ratification should be forwarded to Mexico, there to be exchanged by me against that of President Juarez.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Convention between Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and the Republic of Mexico, for the final Settlement of those Questions, Claims, and Differences which have given rise to a Suspension of Diplomatic Relations between the two Governments. Signed at Puebla, April 28, 1862.

WHEREAS certain claims upon the Government of Mexico on the part of Companies, commercial firms, and private individuals, subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, are still pending and remain unsettled; Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and the President of the Republic of Mexico, being of opinion that a speedy and equitable settlement of all such claims will contribute much to the renewal of the friendly feelings which should ever subsist between the two countries, have resolved to make arrangements for that purpose by means of a Convention, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Sir Charles Lennox Wyke, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Mexico, and Hugh Dunlop, Esquire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Commodore of the First Class, Commanding British Expeditionary Force;

And the President of Mexico, his Excellency General Don Manuel Doblado, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:—

ARTICLE I.

The High Contracting Parties agree that all claims on the part of the aforesaid Companies, commercial firms, or private individuals, subjects of Her Majesty, which yet remain unsettled, as well as any other such claims as may be presented within the time specified in Article III of the present Convention, shall be referred, for the purpose of proving their validity and settling their mode of payment, to two Commissioners to be appointed in the following manner, that is to say:

One Commissioner shall be named by Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary in the Republic; and the other by the President of Mexico.

In case of the death, absence, or incapacity of either Commissioner, or in the event of either Commissioner omitting or ceasing to act as such, Her Majesty's Minister or the President of Mexico, as the case may be, shall forthwith name another person to act as Commissioner in the place or stead of the Commissioner originally named.

The Commissioners so named shall meet at Mexico at the earliest convenient period after they shall have been respectively named, and shall, before proceeding to any business, make and subscribe a solemn Declaration that they will impartially and carefully examine and decide, to the best of their judgment, and according to justice and equity, upon all such claims as shall be laid before them; and such Declaration shall be entered on the record of their proceedings.

The Commissioners shall then, and before proceeding to any other business, name some third person to act as an umpire or arbitrator in any case or cases on which they may themselves differ in opinion. If they should not be able to agree upon such third person they shall each name a person, and in each and every case in which the Commissioners may differ in opinion as to the decision they ought to give, it shall be determined by lot which of the two persons so named shall be the arbitrator or umpire in that particular case.

The person or persons so to be chosen to be arbitrator or umpire shall, before proceeding to act as such in any case, make and subscribe a solemn Declaration, in a form similar to that which shall already have been made and subscribed by the Commissioners, which shall be entered on the record of their proceedings.

In the event of death, absence, or incapacity of such person or persons, or of his or their omitting or declining, or ceasing, to act as such arbitrator or umpire, another and a different person shall be named as aforesaid, to act as such arbitrator or umpire in the place and stead of the person so originally named as aforesaid, and shall make and subscribe such Declaration as aforesaid.

ARTICLE II.

The Arbitrator being appointed, the Commissioners shall proceed to examine and determine the claims which may be presented to them, under the provisions of this Convention, as well as to determine the amount justly due for each separate one.

In cases where they agree to award an indemnity, they shall determine the amount to be paid for damages suffered through death, wounds, robberies, or destruction of property.

In cases where they cannot agree, the subjects of difference shall be referred to the umpire, before whom each of the Commissioners may be heard, and whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE III.

A complete list of the claims shall be presented to the Commissioners at their first meeting, with the exception of those which have not yet been received, owing to the interruption of postal communication from the interior of the Republic; and in such cases the Commissioners themselves shall fix on a reasonable interval of time for their reception.

The said Commissioners shall be bound to examine and decide upon every claim within eighteen months from the day of their first meeting.

It shall be competent for the Commissioners conjointly, or for the Umpire, if they differ, to decide in each case whether any claim has or has not been duly made, preferred, or laid before them, either wholly or to any and what extent, according to the true intent and meaning of this Convention.

ARTICLE IV.

The Commissioners shall issue certificates of the sums to be paid by virtue of their award to the claimants, and the amount of said sums shall be paid by Her Majesty's Government, according to the order of seniority which they may adjudge to each claim, by means of 2,000,000 dollars, which are at once to be placed at their disposal in orders on the Treasury of the United States of America.

Such claims as are not covered by the said sum of 2,000,000 dollars shall be afterwards paid by the Mexican Government out of the money they may receive from the American loan, in two instalments payable respectively eight and sixteen months from the date of the several certificates being issued.

If the American loan should not be forthcoming, the same property that has been assigned to the United States by the Treaty lately concluded between their Government and the Government of Mexico, shall be converted into cash for the payment of the British claims, and this conversion or sale of said property shall be entrusted to a Commission to be named by the Government of Mexico.

ARTICLE V.

The Commission herein provided shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, and may appoint a Secretary to assist in the transaction of its business, and its expenses shall be defrayed in a manner hereafter to be decided by the High Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE VI.

The proceedings of this Commission shall be final and conclusive, with respect to all the claims brought before it, and its award shall be a full discharge to Mexico of all such outstanding claims against the Republic as are mentioned in the preamble of this Convention.

ARTICLE VII.

The "Manning and Mackintosh" claim has been for some time past under the consideration of a person appointed for that purpose by the Mexican Government, in consequence of an agreement come to in the month of March 1858 between them and Her Majesty's then Chargé d'Affaires, but in consequence of numerous difficulties thrown in the way of the said person named to examine into it, no satisfactory result of this question has yet been arrived at.

It is, therefore, now stipulated that the Mexican Government do, without further delay, take such steps for ensuring the due examination of the above claim in the spirit of the original agreement, or consent to its being submitted to the arbitration of the aforesaid Mixed Commission with a view to its final settlement.

ARTICLE VIII.

As several of the claims herein specified have had their origin in acts of violence, fatal, in some instances, to the lives, and prejudicial, in others, to the properties of British subjects, the Mexican Government engage, for the future, to use every means within their power to check such excesses, and to afford the most efficient protection to the subjects of a Government with which their interests, as well as their desire, induce them to maintain the most intimate relations of amity and goodwill.

ARTICLE IX.

The 660,000 dollars, taken from the "Calle de Capuchinas," in the month of November 1860, as well as the sum still remaining due to British subjects of the moneys taken from the "conducta" at the Laguna Seca, shall be repaid to the lawful owners thereof, from the same sum of 2,000,000 dollars, as is mentioned in Article IV.

The rate of interest due from the time when the money was taken, to be paid on both these sums from the aforesaid 2,000,000 dollars, shall be as follows: namely, 6 per cent. per annum on the 660,000 dollars, and 12 per cent. per annum on the remainder of the money due to British subjects from the moneys taken from the "conducta" at the Laguna Seca.

ARTICLE X.

All Treaties, Conventions, and Agreements heretofore concluded between the two High Contracting Parties shall remain binding in their totality on both parties, in all affecting British and Mexican interests; and the Supreme Decrees of the 14th of October, 1850, and the 23rd of January, 1857, do likewise remain in full force and vigour in all that concerns the London bondholder.

ARTICLE XI.

Such sums of money owing to the London bondholders and the Convention bondholders as were in the hands of the Custom-house authorities at the time all payments were suspended by the Law of the 17th of July last, shall be paid to the owners thereof, together with 6 per cent. interest thereon, by means of an order for an equal sum on the Treasury of the United States of America, according to the same terms as are mentioned in Article IV.

ARTICLE XII.

The British Consular Agents at the different ports of the Republic, and the persons whom Her Majesty's Minister may appoint for those ports where there is no Consular Agent, shall have free access to all Custom-house books and papers as may have reference to their clients' interests, as well as to ships' manifests, bills of lading, and all other documents which for the above-named purpose they may consider necessary to examine.

Every month a statement of the duties incurred and of the liquidation of the assignments due to the London bondholders and the Convention bondholders at each of the Custom-houses, shall be delivered to the British Consul resident at the port, or to the person designated by Her Majesty's Minister.

ARTICLE XIII.

In order to ensure with certainty the fulfilment of the conditions contained in the preceding Article, the Mexican Government will issue bonds for a sum equal to that which they may have to pay to the English creditors; these bonds to be handed over to Her Majesty's Consul in Mexico.

With these bonds shall be paid that portion of the duties of the Maritime Custom-houses which are assigned to the English creditors.

No importer can be exempted from making his payments in said bonds, and the parties interested in the bonds shall take care that they are within the reach of all.

ARTICLE XIV.

It is understood that the Mexican Government shall be free from the responsibility of a debtor to a creditor, in as far as concerns any such sums as shall have been paid by them at the end of each month to the agents of the respective bondholders, when a liquidation of the sums so paid and received is duly made out and signed by the authorities of the Custom-houses and the agents at the ports.

ARTICLE XV.

In settling with other foreign creditors of the Republic their several claims, no advantage of any kind shall be allowed to them, which is not equally understood to be granted to the English creditors.

ARTICLE XVI.

The orders on the Treasury of the United States, referred to in Articles IV and IX, shall be issued in such a manner that the English creditors may receive a fourth part of what the Mexican Government has, according to the stipulations of the Treaty concluded between the two Governments, to receive from that of the United States at each separate instalment, and this is to continue until the claims which form the subject matter of this Convention shall have been completely paid off.

ARTICLE XVII.

The present Convention shall be ratified by Her Britannic Majesty and by the President of Mexico, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the city of Mexico, as soon as possible within the space of six months.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and affixed thereto their respective seals.

Done at Puebla this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

(L.S.)	CHARLES LENNOX WYKE.
(L.S.)	HUGH DUNLOP.
(L.S.)	MANUEL DOBLADO.

they could lay hands on, who made a "pronunciamiento" against the existing Government, and proceeded to name a "Gefe Politico" and other Civil functionaries.

The same thing was repeated at Orizaba, where Almonte went a step further by proclaiming himself President of the Republic. In both cases the great mass of the population looked on with perfect indifference to proceedings which they could not interfere with in the presence of several thousand French troops.

In the meantime all the Reactionary bands are springing up again, and this unfortunate country is once more delivered over to all the horrors of Civil war united to those caused by a foreign invasion.

No. 13.

Consul Giffard to Earl Russell.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.)

Vera Cruz, May 2, 1862.

BY the present packet your Lordship will receive despatches from Sir Charles Wyke, announcing that his negotiation with M. Doblado at Puebla has been successful, and that he was only waiting for a communication from Mexico before proceeding to that city in company with Commodore Dunlop, where he would remain for the present; the Commodore himself returning to Vera Cruz in about ten days.

So long as Her Majesty's Legation remained at Vera Cruz, I have abstained from addressing your Lordship on matters which it was not my particular province to deal with. But the absence of Sir Charles Wyke makes it my duty to report to your Lordship whatever occurrence of importance may happen within my Consular jurisdiction; and it is for this reason that I now beg leave to inform your Lordship that the rest of the Spanish force under General Prim embarked this morning early for Havana, on board of several Spanish ships sent here a few days ago by the Captain-General of Cuba for that purpose. The French troops, therefore, are now in possession of the Castle of Ulloa, together with the city of Vera Cruz, and its Custom-house, Post Office, &c.

In other respects this city is very quiet.

No. 14.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, June 2, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter dated the 29th April from Commodore Dunlop, reporting that the flags of Great Britain and Spain have been struck at Vera Cruz.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

Puebla, April 29, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of their Lordships, that in accordance with my orders to the Senior Officer at Vera Cruz, given after previous arrangement with General Prim, our flag was hauled down there and at San Juan de Ulloa at the same time as that of Spain, at sunset on the 24th instant.

Both flags were saluted by the French, which was duly returned.

I hope their Lordships will be of opinion that I did right in ordering the British flag to be hauled down; both Sir Charles Wyke and myself, after full consideration, were of opinion that after what has occurred there could be no common action between the two countries in Mexico.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.)

Admiralty, June 2, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs extracts of letters from Commodore Dunlop dated the 22nd April and 28th April.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

Orizaba, April 22, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the unexpected arrival of the French troops on the 20th instant, obliged General Doblado to return to Puebla after having reached the gates of Orizaba in order to meet Sir C. Wyke and myself.

2. He has invited us to come to Puebla, for the purpose of conferring with him on the proposed Treaty for the redress of British claims and grievances of all kinds, and he promises to offer what he considers sufficient guarantees for the fulfilment of all that he undertakes on behalf of the Government.

3. Sir C. Wyke and myself have determined to accept General Doblado's invitation to meet him in Puebla, for which city we leave this day, having procured "salvo conductas" from the French and Mexican Commanders.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.)

Puebla, April 28, 1862.

WITH reference to my correspondence relative to the intention of Sir C. Wyke and myself to endeavour to negotiate a Treaty with General Doblado on the part of the Mexican Government for the redress of British grievances, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of their Lordships, that we have this day concluded and signed a Convention that I trust will in all respects meet the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I have in conclusion only to add, that whatever merit the Convention just signed may have belongs to my colleague Sir Charles Wyke: to his ability and firmness the British claimants and creditors will owe any advantages they may derive from it.

I readily afforded such little assistance as my previous experience in Mexican affairs enabled me to give, but to my colleague the work belongs, and the credit which I trust he will receive for its execution.

No. 16.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received June 3.)

Sir,

Admiralty, June 2, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Commodore Dunlop, dated the 21st April, with copy of its inclosure, relating to the blockade of the Mexican ports of Tampico and Alvarado by the French squadron, and reporting that Vice-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière has given orders not to interfere with the communication of the British mail-packet with Tampico if she does not carry contraband of war, and also to allow specie to be exported in such mail-packet.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Orizaba, April 21, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter from the Commander-in-chief of the French naval force in the Gulf of Mexico, stating his intention of ordering the blockade of the ports of Tampico and Alvarado, but that he has given orders not to interfere with the communication of the British mail-packet, on the assurance of the Commander that he does not carry contraband of war.

2. I have, since receiving the above-mentioned letter, seen Vice-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, on the subject of the exportation of specie from Tampico, and on my representing the great inconvenience it would be to the mercantile interests if any interference took place with the free exportation of specie in the British mail-packets, which takes place nearly every month, he at once assured me he would send orders to prevent any such interference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

*Vice-Admiral de la Gravière to Commôdore Dunlop.**Orizaba, le 20 April, 1862.*

LE Soussigné, Vice-Amiral Commandant-en-chef, a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de son Excellence M. le Commandant-en-chef des forces navales Anglaises dans le Golfe du Mexique, qu'ayant pris ses mesures pour assurer, à partir du 1 Mai, le blocus des ports de Tampico et d'Alvarado, il a donné des ordres pour que sur une simple déclaration du capitaine que son bâtiment ne transporte aucune contrebande de guerre, le service du paquebot Anglais avec le port de Tampico ne soit entravé en quoi que ce soit.

Le Soussigné a transmis note de cette décision au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

Il saisit, &c.
(Signé) E. JURIEN.

(Translation.)

Orizaba, April 20, 1862.

THE Undersigned, Vice-Admiral Commanding-in-chief, has the honour to bring to the knowledge of his Excellency the Commander-in-chief of the English naval forces in the Gulf of Mexico that, having taken measures for the establishment, from the 1st of May, of the blockade of the ports of Tampico and Alvarado, he has given orders that upon a simple declaration by the Captain that his vessel contains no contraband of war the English mail steamer shall be in no way hindered in its passage into the port of Tampico.

The Undersigned has sent notice of this decision to the Government of His Majesty the Emperor.

He seizes, &c.
(Signed) E. JURIEN.

No. 17.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Hammond.—(Received June 4.)

Sir,

Admiralty, June 2, 1862.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you here with, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Commodore Dunlop, dated the 17th April, in explanation of the proceedings of Her Majesty's Commissioners in Mexico, and relative to the arrest of General Miramon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Commodore Dunlop to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Orizaba, April 17, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge having this day received the duplicate of your letter to Sir A. Milne of 11th March, with Mr. Hammond's letter from the Foreign Office of 10th March, inclosed, relative to my despatch of 30th January, reporting the arrest of the ex-President of Mexico, General Miramon, and my intention to send him back to Havana; and stating that Earl Russell suggests that it should be pointed out to Commodore Dunlop that it is far from the wish of Her Majesty's Government to kindle a civil war in Mexico, and consequently the protection of the British flag, and the permission to land under it, were very properly withheld from General Miramon, whose arrival would probably have given rise to such civil war, but Commodore Dunlop must not suppose that Her Majesty's Government have undertaken to inaugurate a new era, or to attempt the reformation of Mexico, the object of Her Majesty's Government being definite, and limited to the protection of British persons and property.

2. And it is further stated in Mr. Hammond's letter that Commodore Dunlop does not sufficiently explain why the restriction was applied to General Miramon alone, and not also to his numerous followers, &c.: and that it is not explained why, as it was intended to send General Miramon back in a ship of war, a delay was suffered to take place before his departure, &c., &c.

3. I feel great confidence that when the whole of my correspondence has reached their Lordships, and placed before them in detail each link of the chain of events in Mexico, they will see how very complicated and difficult a position the British Commissioners occupied, and what very great care was necessary to enable them to continue a united action with some of their colleagues until it was apparent that the Convention of October was no longer to be considered the basis of their policy, and that immediately this fact was clearly developed they did not hesitate to withdraw from a common action, which, if continued, would have involved Her Majesty's Government in serious difficulties.

4. I am equally confident that when all these details are fairly laid before Her Majesty's Government, and the whole policy undeviatingly pursued by their Agents thus explained, it will be manifest that from first to last they have been guided solely by the Convention of October and their instructions, and that they have never for one moment lost sight of the one great object of adhering to the spirit of the policy indicated therein; that never for one moment have they lost sight of the paramount importance of placing above the possibility of doubt the fact that Her Majesty's Government had no concealed objects in view in sending a British force to Mexico, that the object of their doing so was fairly and honestly set before the world in the Convention of October, and that when that Convention ceased to be the rule of the united action of the Allied Commissioners it was time for them to separate.

5. The long intervals between the arrival of my reports in England led to a judgment being formed on isolated portions of my conduct, and I regret to see that expressions used in some of my despatches have been supposed to imply an inclination on my part to follow a policy which I never for one moment contemplated, and that alarm was raised that I was the advocate of some wild and absurd scheme for the "regeneration of Mexico," and entertained a quixotic idea of "inaugurating a new era" in that Republic.

6. In making use of the word "regeneration" in paragraphs 14 and 24 of my letter to you of January 15, and of the words "inaugurate a new era" in paragraph 20 of my letter to Sir A. Milne of January 30, I did so in a very limited sense. I was far from entertaining the inflated idea that Her Majesty's Government, forgetful of the wrongs of British subjects and the large sums of money due to them, wished to appear only as the benefactor and guardian angel of Mexico, and had sent a force there with that view alone; my thoughts in making use of these words, were confined to giving our moral support to the formation of a strong Government, from which we might hope for a redress of our grievances. The formation of such a Government was the furthest reach of my hopes for the "regeneration of Mexico," and would indeed have been the "inauguration of a new era in its history."

7. I regret sincerely that by an ill-considered choice of language on my part I should have forfeited the confidence of Her Majesty's Government, but I am sanguine, as I have before had the honour to state, that when the proceedings of Sir C. Wyke and myself are spread in one continuous line before the Government for judgment, that the confidence will be fully restored.

8. With reference to that portion of Mr. Hammond's letter which implies that Sir C. Wyke and myself "assigned interference in the internal affairs of Mexico" as the main object of the Tripartite Convention, rather than the redress of wrongs done by Mexico, I beg respectfully to refer to my letter of January 15 to you, in paragraphs 24 and 25 of which the reason is given why the Commissioners were obliged, in addressing their letter to the President, to say less of their claims and the redress of their grievances than of the wishes of their Government for the welfare of Mexico.

9. The views of the Commissioners were so much at variance with respect to the justice of certain claims that they could not agree to commit their respective Governments to their support, and they were all equally without instructions to guide them in such a predicament; it was necessary, therefore, to address a letter to the President that would enable them to gain time for their new instructions to arrive, without exposing the serious dilemma in which they found themselves in the very first step in the allied intervention. I would beg also respectfully to call to their Lordships' recollection that Sir C. Wyke and myself were not acting alone—we had three colleagues, holding very different opinions and views; that these conflicting opinions and views had to be amalgamated with something approaching uniformity; that this amalgamation was a work of extreme difficulty from the very first day of our meeting in conference; that it required forbearance to the extent of even yielding occasionally minor points for the sake of preserving harmony of action, so long as this could be done without the sacrifice of the ruling principle given us as our guide;—and I feel certain that their Lordships and Her Majesty's Government, when they take into consideration the difficulties that surrounded us, will see that the British Commissioners could not be held responsible for every sentiment and high-sounding word that found its way into the collective notes addressed at various times to the Mexican authorities.

10. The very difference in the idioms and phrases employed in the three languages accounts for expressions that would not naturally be found in a strictly English composition.

11. With reference to the arrest of General Miramon, I would beg permission again to refer to my despatch to Sir Alexander Milne of the 30th January, in which I have endeavoured to show the very strong opposition raised to it by the whole of our colleagues, which was pushed to the furthest limits that it would bear; and it was only the firm adherence to our purpose by Sir C. Wyke and myself that rendered this opposition fruitless; for, had we allowed ourselves to be swayed by it, not only would Miramon have landed, but he would now be with General Almonte and his partisans.

12. The reason Miramon's adherents were not also arrested is—

First. There was no means to identify them; they were only known after they landed. Miramon himself came with a false passport, under the name of Miguel Fernandez, and I was obliged to procure a person in Vera Cruz to identify him, which could not be done with his followers, who were mixed with the crowd of passengers.

Secondly. It appeared to Sir C. Wyke and myself that we had not sufficient excuse for arresting every one on board the packet supposed to be friendly to Miramon. We should have exposed ourselves to the danger of being involved in serious complications had we done so, and we should have irritated our colleagues to an extent that we considered would have been injurious to the service we had in view.

13. The reason that some delay took place between the arrest of Miramon and his being sent back to Havana, was partly because the destination of the vessel in which he was originally intended to go (the "Mersey") was changed, and partly because I did not wish him to reach Havana only to return immediately and land on the coast of Mexico. This delay, though short, was sufficient to prove to him that there were many obstacles in the way of his success; and consequently, on his arrival at Havana, he took the packet that sailed the next day for Cadiz.

14. With reference to the arrival of General Almonte, who came, likewise, in one of the British packets, I never heard of it until he was on shore.

15. He called on each of the Commissioners, I believe. To me he stated the nature of his interview with public men in Paris, and his views with reference to the establishment of a Monarchy in Mexico.

16. The French General Lorencez afterwards informed me that it was intended that Almonte should have come to Mexico in the French man-of-war that brought him and his Staff, and this was only prevented by General Almonte's illness.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH DUNLOP.

No. 18.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 5, 1862.

I HAVE laid before Earl Russell your letter of the 2nd instant, inclosing copies of despatches from Commodore Dunlop reporting occurrences in Mexico up to the last date.

Lord Russell desires me to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that he considers Commodore Dunlop to deserve the highest credit for the straightforwardness and honesty of his conduct. His diplomatic course was naturally and properly subordinate to that of his colleague Sir Charles Wyke.

I am further to state that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the British flag having been hauled down at Vera Cruz, and of the small force of Marines, which had been left there, having been withdrawn.

Her Majesty's Government intend to send despatches to Sir Charles Wyke by the first opportunity, and it would be extremely convenient if, at a time to be hereafter fixed, a ship of war could be sent to Vera Cruz by Admiral Milne to bring Sir Charles Wyke to New York or to Bermuda.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 19.

Mr. Hammond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 6, 1862.

I HAVE laid before Earl Russell your further letters of the 2nd instant, inclosing despatches from Commodore Dunlop.

Commodore Dunlop adverts more particularly to the observations which, in my letter of the 10th of March I made, by Lord Russell's directions, with reference to the proceedings taken towards General Miramon and his followers, and to the Proclamation addressed to the Mexican nation by the Commissioners of the allied Powers shortly after their arrival at Vera Cruz; and in both he justifies the conduct which he has pursued in the difficult and embarrassing position in which he has been placed.

I am to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Lord Russell accepts as satisfactory the explanation offered by Commodore Dunlop in regard to the reasons by which he was influenced in the very embarrassing position in which he was placed by the conduct of the French Commissioners, and that his Lordship sees no reason for withdrawing from Commodore Dunlop the confidence of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 20.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, June 12, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government have received from Sir Charles Wyke and Commodore Dunlop despatches of the greatest importance.

It appears that after the unfortunate rupture of the Conference of the 9th of April, and the declared resolution of the French Plenipotentiaries to overthrow the Government of Juarez, the British Plenipotentiaries proceeded to Puebla, and there signed with General Doblado, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic, a Convention for the settlement of British claims, and the prevention of outrages and insults against the persons of Her Majesty's subjects.

Her Majesty's Government have taken into serious deliberation the propriety of ratifying this Convention.

There are considerations arising from the situation of the Government of Juarez and out of the Convention of London which have been the subject of anxious attention.

The language of Sir Charles Wyke and Commodore Dunlop, one in the diplomatic, and the other in the naval service of Her Majesty, has been uniform and consistent.

They consider the Government of Juarez as representing legality by the legitimate succession of Juarez to the Presidency in default of President Comonfort, and as representing internal force by virtue of the energy and ability of General Doblado. They deny all knowledge of the injuries alleged to have been sustained by French subjects subsequently to the Convention of Soledad, and affirm that M. Dubois de Saligny did not specify to them the nature or circumstances of such injuries.

Her Majesty's Government consider that what has occurred in the last few months in Mexico may be thus briefly summed up:—

1. The Allied Powers, by the Convention of October 31, agreed upon a demand on Mexico for redress of wrongs suffered by them, and upon a hostile operation on the coast of Mexico, namely, taking possession of different fortresses and military positions on the Mexican coast, and accomplishing other operations which on the spot might be judged to be best calculated to realize the objects specified in the preamble of the Convention, and specifically to ensure the safety of foreign residents.

2. Upon the landing of the allied forces, very violent proclamations were issued by the Government in Mexico, treating the allies as pirates.

3. An Agreement was, however, afterwards made between General Prim and General Doblado, by which the allied forces were to be allowed to pass the defiles, and to occupy Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan.

4. A Convention, signed by M. Dubois de Saligny and Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, as well as by the British and Spanish Commissioners, was afterwards made; according to which, the Allied Commissioners were to meet the Commissioners of the Mexican Government at Orizaba, which meeting was afterwards fixed to take place on the 15th of April.

5. Before that day arrived, namely, on the 9th of April, a conference was held, at which the French Commissioners declared their intention to break off all negotiation with the Government of Juarez, and to lead the French troops to Mexico. The British and Spanish Commissioners refused to concur in this step, and declared they saw no reason for not pursuing the negotiation according to the Convention of Soledad.

Her Majesty's Government having approved of the conduct of Sir Charles Wyke and Commodore Dunlop, are at this time perfectly free to negotiate with the Government of Juarez, and to conclude and ratify a Convention with the said Government.

No. 21.

Sir C. Wyke to Earl Russell.—(Received June 14.)

(Extract.)

Mexico, May 11, 1862.

HAVING learnt, on the 31st of April, from General Doblado, that the Convention which I had signed with him on the 28th of the same month had been duly ratified by the President, I started on the following day for the city of Mexico, accompanied by Commodore Dunlop, Mr. Walsham, and Mr. Consul Glennie, as I informed your Lordship I would do in my despatch of the 29th ultimo.

On my arrival here I paid a private visit to the President, during the course of which I explained to his Excellency, as well as to General Doblado, that my presence in Mexico should in no way be looked upon as a renewal of relations on my part between the two Governments, for such a formal act could only be performed by me in the event of the Convention of the 28th ultimo being ratified by Her Majesty's Government, and that in the meantime I wished to reside here merely in the character of a private individual.

Both the President and his Minister appreciated my motive for making such a declaration, and therefore the understanding between us on this subject was complete.

Since my arrival here I have endeavoured to remove the only objection that can reasonably be brought against the Convention signed with General Doblado on the 28th ultimo, which consisted in the absence of any material guarantee to secure the punctual fulfilment of its stipulations.

This was no easy matter, as your Lordship will easily imagine, from the difficulty of obtaining a guarantee that would not prove to us a greater burden to retain than it was worth.

From the extremely unhealthy nature of the climate on both the coasts, we could not, during six months of the year, occupy any of their ports, even were the Government willing to surrender any of them to us, which they would not have been, and, therefore, such a guarantee would have been useless, even if attainable. Everything else that they

possess is either mortgaged or would be useless to us, and I was therefore sorely puzzled what to do, until the idea struck me that I might conciliate their interests with our own in this matter in a manner that I will now describe.

From the state of disorder and anarchy prevailing in many of the more distant States, in consequence of the long continuance of civil war, several of the Governors of such States, and particularly of those on the Pacific seaboard, have become independent in all but the name, and thereby retain the revenues of the Custom-houses in that part of the Republic, instead of transmitting their proceeds to the Central Government.

This state of things causes a loss of revenue to the Federal Government of nearly 4,000,000 dollars annually, whilst the London and Convention bondholders lose a certain per-centage to which they are entitled, but now never obtain, on both the import and export duties levied at those ports.

As, therefore, both the Government and ourselves lose from one and the same cause, I proposed to General Doblado that we should add an Additional Article to our Convention, by which I should be entitled to occupy any one or more of such ports by Her Majesty's forces whenever the per-centage of duties due to British subjects there was not duly paid over to us as agreed on.

This, I told him, would, during the time that the temporary occupation of such places lasted, prove as beneficial to the Central Government as it would to us, for they would then receive what fairly belonged to them, at the same time that we paid ourselves.

The reasoning was too just not to be admitted, but, on the other hand, the humiliation in a national point of view was urged as an argument against such a concession, which would be sure to call forth a strong opposition on the part of the ultra-Liberal or so-called Patriotic party.

We finally overcame this difficulty by so wording the Article that the concession was only to last until the final extinction of civil war and the re-establishment of the Government's legitimate authority in the more distant parts of the country, when they would, of course, for their own honour and credit fulfil their engagements towards us, though, at the same time, it might be prolonged by the mutual consent of the High Contracting Parties.

As such a happy state of things is, I fear, far distant, we have by this concession, which was at last granted after some opposition on the President's part, secured for some time to come a positive and material guarantee for the payment of considerable sums of money due to British subjects, which they have hitherto almost given up all hope of ever receiving.

The advantage thus gained is a most important one, and will considerably add to the value of a Convention which, in other respects also, is so beneficial to British interests in this Republic.

In order to execute the plan thus combined, we should have at least three vessels of war stationed on the Mexican Pacific coast during the healthy season, which I believe lasts about six months, provided with a sufficient number of Marines each, to land and form a guard at the Custom-houses and gates of the respective towns which, for the time being, we may choose to occupy for the above-mentioned purpose.

I herewith inclose copy of the Additional Article referred to, which is already agreed on between General Doblado and myself, and will be duly signed and sealed by us to-morrow morning, as well as ratified by the President.

This, added to the Convention, I shall deliver to Commodore Dunlop, who will leave Mexico for Vera Cruz on Thursday next, from which place he will take the earliest opportunity of forwarding it to your Lordship.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Additional Article to the Treaty between Great Britain and Mexico of April 28, 1862.

INASMUCH as it has been proved by experience that the Government of the Union, from circumstances not within its control, and from the continuance of the civil war, is at times unable to make good its authority in those parts of the Republic which are at a distance from the capital, the two High Contracting Parties, with the view of remedying this evil in future, and of affording to British subjects a real guarantee for the due fulfilment of the stipulations of the Treaty of the 28th of April last, have agreed to the following Article being added to the aforesaid Treaty :—

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE.

Whenever any of the authorities in the maritime Custom-houses withhold, or cause to be withheld, the payment of moneys due to British creditors under existing Conventions, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister may, upon giving due notice thereof to the Mexican Government, employ the armed force of his nation in the mutual interest of the two countries, for the purpose of occupying the port or ports in which such a violation of Treaty engagements shall have taken place, and remain in such occupation until, in the opinion of the two Governments, the authorities shall have been brought to order, and the subjects of Her Majesty satisfied.

The above concession shall only remain in force until peace be re-established in the Republic upon a firm and lasting basis, and is then to cease, unless for reasons of mutual convenience the two nations agree to its being prolonged.

The present Additional Article shall have the same force and validity as if it was inserted, word for word, in the Treaty signed on the aforesaid 28th of April last. It shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at the same time.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto their respective seals.

Done at the city of Mexico, the 12th of May, in the year of our Lord 1862.

(L.S.) C. LENNOX WYKE.

(L.S.) HUGH DUNLOP.

(L.S.) MANUEL DOBLADO.

No. 22.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received June 14.)

(Extract)

Paris, June 13, 1862.

I CALLED this afternoon upon M. Thouvenel for the purpose of communicating to his Excellency your Lordship's despatch of yesterday's date relative to the Convention signed at Puebla on the 28th of April between Sir Charles Wyke and Captain Dunlop on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and General Doblado on the part of President Juarez.

M. Thouvenel after reading your Lordship's despatch observed that there could be no question as to the right of the British Plenipotentiaries to conclude the Treaty in question after the occurrences which had taken place in the Conference of the 9th April, but nevertheless he must question the advisability of the proceeding. After the unfortunate turn which affairs had taken in Mexico, would it not, he must ask himself, have been more prudent if Sir C. Wyke had momentarily abstained, as he had announced the intention of doing, from further intercourse with the Government of Juarez, and watched the progress of events? He saw no reason for this great hurry; Her Majesty's Government after late events could hardly have much confidence in the fulfilment by President Juarez of his engagements. Why not let it be seen whether the successful progress of the French expedition might not be followed by the institution of a Government more worthy of trust? As it was, it could not be denied that Sir C. Wyke in treating with the Government of Juarez had given it a moral support, which, under the circumstances, might be followed by important consequences, for it might enable him to continue a struggle which might otherwise have been hopeless. For these reasons, without at all disputing the right of Her Majesty's Representative to conclude the Treaty, he must regret the act itself.

I replied to M. Thouvenel that it was the French Plenipotentiaries who were the cause of this state of affairs. After consenting to treat with the Government of Juarez they had suddenly changed their mind, but it would have been very difficult for the British Plenipotentiaries, differing as they did in their conclusions from their French colleagues, to refuse to continue the negotiation which, in sending an ultimatum to the Juarez Government, they had themselves invited.

With respect to the little confidence to be placed in Juarez, I said that there was no reason why more faith should be placed in Almonte, or any other of the aspirants to the Presidency with whom the French might be willing to treat. Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries had entered into negotiations with the persons whom they had found in office, and who, whether good or bad, represented the country; and there appeared more chance of an arrangement with them being observed hereafter than one entered into with persons introduced to power through foreign bayonets.

No. 23.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 14, 1862.

THE Count de Flahault read to me yesterday a despatch of M. Thouvenel on the affairs of Mexico.

M. Thouvenel does not dispute the strict right of this country, after what has occurred, to separate its action entirely from that of France, and conclude a Convention with Mexico for the redress of its own wrongs. But he deplors the attitude, in antagonism to France, which Great Britain will thus assume in Mexico. He had hoped that Sir C. Wyke, in conformity with his previous intentions, would have come to England, and have left it for France to pursue in Mexico those plans which in a short time must either establish order, or fail in doing so; that Great Britain would have lost nothing by such conduct, as the Government of Almonte, equally with that of Juarez, would have been ready to do justice to British claims; but the present Convention gives a kind of moral support to the Government of Juarez, and, on the other hand, has an influence unfavourable to the endeavours of France to promote the establishment of a better order of things.

I said I thought it could hardly be denied that Sir C. Wyke was fully justified in the course he took at the Conference of Orizaba. M. Dubois de Saligny had there declared the intention of the French Commissioners to march upon Mexico, and break off all relations with the Government of Juarez upon the ground of certain injuries to French subjects which he did not choose to specify. The British and Spanish Commissioners could do no otherwise than pursue the pacific mode of conference which had been arranged with the concurrence of all the Commissioners.

I should have been perfectly satisfied, however, if Sir Charles Wyke, after arranging the bases of an Agreement for the redress of the grievances of British subjects, had executed his intention of retiring to New York. He had, however, thought differently, and had signed a Convention with General Doblado on the part of President Juarez.

The question for Her Majesty's Government at present was whether if this Convention, signed with the Representative of a Government acknowledged by Great Britain eighteen months ago, should be found to grant the redress we have so long sought, Her Majesty should be advised to refuse her ratification. But before writing to Sir Charles Wyke, Her Majesty's Government had thought it right to communicate their opinion to the Governments of France and Spain.

I said, however, that Her Majesty's Government by no means desired Sir Charles Wyke to take up his residence at the seat of the Juarez Government, should that Government be obliged to leave the city of Mexico. When Miramon presided over the Mexican Government, Mr. Mathew was directed, in case Miramon should leave the city of Mexico, not to follow him. Similar orders will be given to Sir Charles Wyke.

The impression of Her Majesty's Government, derived from the accounts of their Agents, were that no Mexican army could resist the French troops, but that the majority of the Mexican people were Liberal and Republican, and that it would be impossible for the French troops to establish Monarchy in Mexico with any chance of stability.

I believed we had only to wait to see the proof of the truth of these views.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 24.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord,

Paris, June 14, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note from M. Thouvenel dated the 7th instant, but which I only received last night, transmitting two copies of a Notification inserted in the "Moniteur" of that day, declaring the ports of Tampico and Alvarado, in Mexico, to be blockaded by the French forces.

M. Thouvenel requests me to convey this Notification to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

M. Thouvenel to Earl Cowley.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 7 Juin, 1862.

J'AI l'honneur de vous adresser deux exemplaires d'une Notification insérée au "Moniteur" de ce jour dans le but de faire connaître le blocus que les forces Françaises ont mis devant les ports de Tampico et d'Alvarado, au Mexique.

Je vous prie de vouloir bien faire parvenir cette Notification au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et de l'Irlande.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) THOUVENEL.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, June 7, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to send you two copies of a notification inserted in the "Moniteur" of this day, in order to make known the blockade which the French forces have established at the ports of Tampico and Alvarado in Mexico.

I beg you to be kind enough to forward this notification to the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) THOUVENEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Extract from the "Moniteur" of June 7, 1862.

Notification relative au Blocus des Ports de Tampico et d'Alvarado, dans le Golfe du Mexique.

Département de la Marine et de Colonies.

IL est notifié, par les présentes, que son Excellence le Ministre de la Marine et des Colonies a été informé par le Vice-Amiral commandant-en-chef les forces navales Françaises dans le Golfe du Mexique, que le 1 Mai dernier, et à partir du dit jour, il a été établie, par les forces navales placées sous son commandement, un blocus effectif des ports de Tampico et d'Alvarado.

Il est, en outre, notifié par les présentes que toutes les mesures autorisées par le droit des gens et les Traités respectifs existant entre Sa Majesté et les différentes Puissances neutres seront adoptées et exécutées par rapport à tous les navires qui tenteraient de violer le dit blocus.

Paris, le 5 Juin, 1862.

(Translation.)

Notification relative to the Blockade of the Ports of Tampico and Alvarado in the Gulf of Mexico.

Department of Marine and the Colonies.

IT is hereby notified that his Excellency the Minister of Marine and the Colonies has been informed by the Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief of the French naval forces in the Gulf of Mexico that an effective blockade of the ports of Tampico and Alvarado was established on and after the 1st of May last.

It is, moreover, hereby notified that all the measures authorized by the right of nations, and by the respective Treaties existing between His Majesty and the different neutral Powers will be adopted and put in force in respect of all ships trying to violate the said blockade.

Paris, June 5, 1862.

No. 25.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 17, 1862.

M. THOUVENEL, in conversation upon the subject of the Convention signed by Sir Charles Wyke and Commodore Dunlop with General Doblado, said to you that no doubt it was our strict right to make such a Convention; but that it was not advisable.

There can be no doubt that it is not only strictly the right, but it is also strictly the duty, of the British Government to obtain for British subjects in Mexico reparation for the wrongs they have suffered, and compensation for the frauds and the robberies of which they have been victims.

But, in seeking to obtain this redress, the British Government are determined to abide by the principles they profess, the obligations they have contracted, and the great rules of policy by which the nation is guided.

Viewed in this light, Her Majesty's Government do not find that the Convention of Puebla contravenes either the principle of non-intervention, or the general engagement not to seek any territorial dominion or separate advantage in Mexico.

It only proposes to do that which England, France, and Spain desire to do jointly, and which since the rupture of Orizaba we must all do separately, namely, to grant redress for the just complaints of Great Britain.

But when the Convention is examined with a view to ascertain its conformity to the great rules of policy by which the British nation is guided, Her Majesty's Government are not at all satisfied with several of its provisions.

For instance, it recognizes, in a most inconvenient manner, a Treaty between Mexico and the United States, by which Mexico is to obtain a loan, and the United States a security, in the vast waste lands of Mexico.

Her Majesty's Government are not fully informed of all the Articles of this Treaty between Mexico and the United States, but it may contain provisions injurious to the independence of Mexico, and a previous recognition of the Treaty might be held to bar objections which Great Britain may feel bound to make.

The Convention proceeds, in case the Treaty with the United States should not be ratified, to grant the same property in the waste lands to the British Government. But the title to this security might be disputed; and, while the assertion of such a title might involve this country in a conflict with other Powers, and with Mexico itself, its abandonment might render us liable, in an inconvenient degree, to the claims of the British bondholders.

A Supplementary Article signed at Mexico on the 12th of May, providing for the occupation of certain Mexican ports by British naval forces, is open in a much greater degree to objections of the same nature.

For these reasons Her Majesty's Government, while still intent upon obtaining redress from Mexico for British subjects, will decline to ratify the Convention of Puebla, and the Supplementary Article of Mexico of the 12th of May.

Her Majesty's Government having given no instructions to their Plenipotentiaries to conclude this Convention, feel themselves at liberty to decline to ratify it without committing any breach of faith towards the Mexican Government.

In doing so, Her Majesty's Government are glad that circumstances should enable us, with honour, to avoid that which would appear to widen the political separation between England and France with regard to Mexican affairs. That separation was, however, begun by the unfortunate decision taken by M. Dubois de Saligny and Admiral Jurien de la Gravière to break away from the negotiations entered upon by the three allied Powers, and to commence active hostilities against Mexico.

Her Majesty's Government are rejoiced that they are not obliged, at a moment when the French expeditionary force appears to be in difficulties, to take a step which might have borne the character of aggravating those difficulties, and might have implied feelings on the part of the British Government which they are far from entertaining towards that of the Emperor.

The instructions to be given to Sir Charles Wyke will require some further consideration, and as they will not be sent before the 1st of July there is time sufficient for that consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 26.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received June 19.)

(Extract.)

Paris, June 18, 1862.

IT is my duty to bring to your Lordship's notice the inclosed "Exposé des Motifs," extracted from the "Moniteur," and signed by General Allard, one of the Imperial Commissioners to defend and explain the Military Budget before the Legislative Body,

recommending the adoption of a "Projet de Loi" authorizing an augmented grant of 7,000,000 of francs for the War Department, and of 8,000,000 francs for that of the Marine; which contains the following passage:—

"Dans l'intervalle qui s'est écoulé depuis ce jour, l'Espagne et l'Angleterre ont cru devoir retirer leurs troupes du Mexique, et un petit corps Français, de 7,000 hommes, est resté seul chargé de continuer les opérations commencées en commun."

To this statement, so completely at variance with facts,—no British troops, properly speaking, having landed on Mexican soil,—I this afternoon called M. Thouvenel's attention.

I said that Her Majesty's Government could have no objection to the plain truth being told, but that I must protest against such a representation from the mouth of a Commissioner of the Government, and that I conceived that it was M. Thouvenel's duty to take measures for correcting it.

M. Thouvenel replied that no doubt the statement was erroneous, and that he would take care that it should be corrected before the Legislative Body in the explanations which M. Billault would be charged to make to that Body relative to the events passing in Mexico.

I shall remind M. Thouvenel of this promise because there is a considerable amount of excitement against the supposed conduct of Great Britain at this moment.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Extract from the "Moniteur."

Annexe à la Séance du 16 Juin.

Exposé des Motifs relatif aux Modifications à introduire dans le Projet de Loi concernant les Suppléments de Crédits de l'Exercice 1862.

MESSIEURS,—Dans son discours du 27 Janvier dernier aux grands Corps de l'Etat, l'Empereur caractérisait ainsi l'expédition du Mexique:—" Nous ne serions en lutte avec personne si, au Mexique, les procédés d'un Gouvernement sans scrupules ne nous avaient obligés de nous réunir avec l'Espagne et l'Angleterre pour protéger nos nationaux et réprimer des attentats contre l'humanité et le droit des gens."

Dans l'intervalle qui s'est écoulé depuis ce jour, l'Espagne et l'Angleterre ont cru devoir retirer leurs troupes du Mexique, et un petit corps Français, de 7,000 hommes, est resté seul chargé de continuer les opérations commencées en commun.

Ce corps, malgré son chiffre peu élevé, ne faillira pas à sa mission de civilisation, et sortira victorieux, nous en avons l'assurance, des épreuves qui peuvent lui être réservées.

Mais, quelle que soit notre confiance dans le succès, la prudence commande de se mettre en mesure de pourvoir aux éventualités de la guerre, et c'est dans ce but que le Gouvernement vient demander au Corps Législatif, avant que sa session ne se termine, les crédits nécessaires pour transporter, au fur et à mesure des besoins, sur le théâtre des opérations, les renforts en hommes et en matériel qui seraient reconnus indispensables.

L'envoi des premiers renforts aura lieu immédiatement.

Tel est l'objet des modifications que nous vous proposons d'introduire dans la Loi des Suppléments de Crédits pour l'Exercice 1862, et tendant à augmenter de 7,000,000 francs les dépenses du Ministère de la Guerre, et de 8,000,000 francs celles du Ministère de la Marine et des Colonies.

Il est entendu que ces crédits nouveaux ne pourront recevoir une autre destination que celle des dépenses afférentes à l'expédition du Mexique.

"Partout où notre drapeau est engagé," dit le rapport de votre Commission du Budget, "nous le soutiendrons énergiquement." Le Gouvernement n'attendait pas moins du patriotisme du Corps Législatif, et il a la ferme confiance qu'il répondra unanimement à l'appel qui lui est fait.

Signé à la minute:

Le Président de Section, rapporteur,

Le Général de Division,
(Signé) ALLARD.

Les Commissaires du Gouvernement sont:—

(Mêmes Commissaires que pour la Loi des Suppléments de Crédits de 1862. Décret du 5 Mai, 1860.)

(Translation.)

Supplement to the Sitting of June 16.

Recital of the reasons for modifying the Bill concerning the Supplementary Credits of the Financial Statement of 1862.

Gentlemen,

IN his Speech of the 27th of January last to the Legislative Chambers, the Emperor thus characterized the expedition to Mexico:

"We should not be at strife with anybody if, in Mexico, the proceedings of a Government without scruples had not obliged us to unite with Spain and England to protect our subjects, and repress attempts against humanity and the rights of nations."

In the interval which has passed since that day, Spain and England have thought right to withdraw their troops from Mexico, and a small French force of 7,000 men has remained alone, charged with carrying on the operations begun in concert.

This force, in spite of its smallness, will not fail in its mission of civilization, and will come victorious, we have the conviction, out of the trials which may be reserved for it

But however great our confidence of success may be, prudence commands us to take measures for providing for the eventualities of war; and it is for this purpose that the Government comes to ask the Legislative Body, before the termination of its session, for the necessary votes to transport, as they may be wanted, to the theatre of operations, the reinforcements of men and material which may be indispensable.

The dispatch of the first reinforcements will take place immediately.

Such is the object of the modifications which we propose to you to introduce into the Bill of the Supplementary Votes for the Financial Statement of 1862, which tends to increase the expenses of the War Office by 7,000,000 of francs, and those of the Admiralty and Colonial Office by 8,000,000 francs.

It is understood that these new votes cannot be otherwise used than in the expenses of the Mexican expedition.

"Wherever our flag is engaged," says the Report of your Committee on the Budget, "we will sustain it energetically." The Government expected as much from the patriotism of the Legislative Body, and it has the firm confidence that it will respond unanimously to the call which is made upon it.

Duly signed.

The President of Section, reporter.

The General of Division,
(Signed) ALLARD.

The Commissioners of the Government are:—

(The same Commissioners as for the Bill of the Supplementary Votes of 1862. Decree of the 5th of May, 1860.)

No. 27.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received June 19.)

(Extract.)

Paris, June 18, 1862.

THE Emperor being expected to hold a Council in Paris to-day, and His Majesty being very anxious on the subject of the ratification by Her Majesty's Government of the Doblado Convention, I wrote a line to M. Thouvenel, on the receipt, this morning, of your Lordship's despatch of yesterday's date, to inform his Excellency, confidentially, that Her Majesty's Government had decided on declining the ratification. I have since seen his Excellency, and read to him your Lordship's despatch, explaining the reasons which had actuated Her Majesty's Government in coming to this decision.

M. Thouvenel said that the Emperor had learnt the determination of Her Majesty's Government with great satisfaction. His Excellency added that although the sentiments of friendship for the Imperial Government, which your Lordship expresses at the end of your despatch, had not been the turning point in the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government, yet that he did not receive them with less cordiality, nor appreciate them the less.

His Excellency then said that it was very probable that the affairs of Mexico would be discussed in the Legislative Body on Friday or Saturday next, and that he should be very glad to be empowered to state on the occasion that the Doblado Convention would not be ratified by Her Majesty's Government.

I said that I would refer to your Lordship for instructions, but that I could not take upon myself to authorize the giving publicity in France to a matter which, as far as I was aware, had not yet been made known in England.

No. 28.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 19, 1862.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch of yesterday's date, calling my attention to the "Exposé des Motifs," signed by General Allard, one of the Imperial Commissioners to defend and explain the Military Budget before the Legislative Body, and recommending the adoption of a "Projet de Loi," authorizing an augmented grant of 7,000,000 of francs for the War Department, and of 8,000,000 francs for that of the Marine, which contains the following passage:—

"Dans l'intervalle qui s'est écoulé depuis ce jour, l'Espagne et l'Angleterre ont cru devoir retirer leurs troupes du Mexique, et un petit corps Français, de 7,000 hommes, est resté seul chargé de continuer les opérations commencées en commun."

The facts differ greatly from this representation.

Your Excellency will recollect that no stipulation was made in the Convention of London as to the amount of force to be sent to Mexico by each of the Contracting Parties.

It was agreed, however, that each Power should communicate to the other two its intentions in that respect.

Spain declared her intention to send between 6,000 and 7,000 troops; France to send 2,000, afterwards increased to 2,500, and subsequently to the same number as those of Spain. Her Majesty's Government declared that they would send only a squadron and 700 supplementary Marines.

It was at that time supposed that the capture of Vera Cruz might be attended with considerable loss of life, and the ships and Marines were intended to assist in that operation.

But it was never intended that the Marines should penetrate into the interior, and although Commodore Dunlop at one moment proposed to march them up the country, his conduct in that respect was not sanctioned, and he himself, at the approach of the sickly season, sent his small body of Marines to Bermuda.

When, therefore, the Conferences of Orizaba ended in a rupture, the only force which remained to be withdrawn was one of 150 Marines then at Vera Cruz.

The principle of non-intervention having been always maintained by Her Majesty's Government, this force was withdrawn, and the British flag hauled down, upon the expressed determination of Admiral de la Gravière and M. Dubois de Saligny to march to Mexico for the purpose of overthrowing the Government of President Juarez. But the withdrawal of this small force had nothing to do with the amount of the forces before Puebla on the 5th of May.

It is desirable to set right these facts, and you are instructed to read and give a copy of this despatch to M. Thouvenel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) **RUSSELL.**

No. 29.

Earl Russell to Earl Cowley.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 19, 1862.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency, in reply to your despatch of the 18th instant, that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to M. Thouvenel stating to the Legislative Body that the Wyke-Doblado Convention will not be ratified by Her Majesty. His Excellency will no doubt at the same time explain that the reason why the ratification is withheld is, that the Convention refers to and is based upon a Convention alleged to have been concluded between the United States and Mexico, which might have some bearing, not now apparent, on the independence of Mexico, but which, at all events, assigns the waste lands of Mexico to the United States as

security for a loan to be made to Mexico. The objection of Her Majesty's Government applies no less to a provision in the Wyke-Doblado Convention which provides as security for the payment of British claims in the event of the Convention between Mexico and the United States falling through, that those lands shall be sold and appropriated to the payment of the claims—an arrangement which Her Majesty's Government apprehend might give rise to very embarrassing questions.

You may give a copy of this despatch to M. Thouvenel, and he may make any use of it he pleases.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 30.

Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.—(Received June 20.)

My Lord,

Washington, June 5, 1862.

IN the course of conversation this morning, Mr. Seward mentioned incidentally a Treaty recently signed by Mr. Corwin with the Government of Mexico. The purport of the Treaty was, Mr. Seward told me, that the United States should advance as a loan to Mexico the sum of 11,000,000 dollars.

Mr. Seward said that the President of the United States had determined not to send this Treaty to the Senate for ratification. It was in the first place, he said, entirely incompatible with the views which the Senate had expressed when their opinion was asked about Mr. Corwin's former Treaty. There was, moreover, a still graver objection. Mexico was at war. To advance a loan to her would be equivalent to forming an alliance, offensive and defensive, with her. This the Government of the United States was very far from being prepared to do at the present moment.

I took this opportunity of begging Mr. Seward to observe the scrupulous fidelity with which Her Majesty's Government had adhered to their declaration that they would in no case interfere in the internal affairs of Mexico.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 31.

Earl Cowley to Earl Russell.—(Received June 21.)

My Lord,

Paris, June 20, 1862.

I HAVE placed in M. Thouvenel's hands, as instructed by your Lordship, a copy of your despatch of yesterday's date,* commenting on the statement made by General Allard to the Legislative Body in recommending the adoption of a "projet de loi" authorizing the augmentation of the Military and Naval Budgets, in consequence of the state of affairs in Mexico, to which I had called your Lordship's attention in my despatch of the 18th instant.

M. Thouvenel said that your Lordship's observations were quite correct, and that he would send them to M. Billault, who would make use of them in the statement respecting the affairs of Mexico which he was about to make in the name of the Government to the Legislative Body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COWLEY.

No. 32.

Earl Russell to Sir C. Wyke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 27, 1862.

HER Majesty's Government have considered with great attention your despatch of the 29th of April, and the Convention signed by you at Puebla on the 28th of April, of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch. They have also received a copy of the additional Convention signed by you, by Commodore Dunlop, and General Doblado, at Mexico on the 12th of May, and inclosed in your despatch of the 11th ultimo.

Her Majesty's Government have no doubt that you and Commodore Dunlop were

quite right in separating yourselves from the French after the declared intention of the French Commanders to move their troops on Mexico, with a view to overthrow the Government of the President of the Mexican Republic.

Had you consented to join in that movement, you would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, have acted in direct violation of the Convention of London, and in contravention of those principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries upon which the foreign policy of Her Majesty's Government is based.

Her Majesty's Government are rejoiced to think that you have made it clear to the world that Her Majesty's Government will not swerve from a policy which is so conducive to the maintenance of the principle of national independence. Nor can any one deny that, when you had thus regained your freedom of action, you were at liberty to negotiate a Convention with the Mexican Government.

There can be no doubt, indeed, that it is not only strictly the right, but is also strictly the duty of the British Government to obtain for British subjects in Mexico reparation for the wrongs they have suffered, and compensation for the frauds and the robberies of which they have been the victims. But in seeking to obtain this redress, the British Government are determined to abide by the principles they profess, the obligations they have contracted, and the great rules of policy by which the nation is guided.

Viewed in this light, Her Majesty's Government do not find that the Convention of Puebla contravenes either the principle of non-intervention or the general engagement contained in the Convention of October 31, 1861, that the Contracting Parties should not by their action in Mexico seek any territorial dominion or separate advantage for themselves. It only proposes to do that which England, France, and Spain desired to do jointly, and which, since the rupture of Orizaba, we must all do separately, namely, to obtain redress for just complaints.

But when the Convention is examined with a view to ascertain its conformity to the great rules of policy by which the British nation is guided, Her Majesty's Government are not satisfied with some of its provisions.

For instance, this Convention recognizes in a most inconvenient manner the probable conclusion of a Treaty between Mexico and the United States, by which Mexico would obtain a loan from the United States, and the United States a security for that loan in the vast waste lands of Mexico.

It has since appeared that this Treaty between the United States and Mexico will not be ratified, nor even be submitted to the Senate for the purpose of ratification by the President of the United States.

Her Majesty's Government understand that the ground upon which the Government of the United States have come to the determination not to ratify this Treaty is, that by advancing money to a Power at war with France the United States would aid one of the belligerent parties. The same objection does not, indeed, apply to Great Britain, because if the Convention were ratified we should withdraw money from Mexico instead of advancing money to Mexico. But the objection felt by Her Majesty's Government to the Convention of Puebla is, that this Convention with Mexico is interwoven with another Treaty, the provisions of which are not fully known to Her Majesty's Government, and which, if brought into operation, might possibly affect the independence of Mexico.

The Convention which you have signed proceeds to provide that, in case the Treaty with the United States should not be ratified, an interest in the same property in the waste lands should be vested in the British Government. But the title to this security might be disputed, the church lands might be resumed, and while the assertion of such a title might involve this country in conflict with other Powers, and with Mexico itself, its abandonment might render us liable in an inconvenient degree to the claims of the British bondholders.

The Supplementary Article, signed at Mexico on the 12th of May, providing for the occupation of certain Mexican ports by British naval forces is open in a greater degree to objections of the same nature.

For these reasons Her Majesty's Government, while still intent upon obtaining redress from Mexico for British subjects, will decline to ratify the Convention of Puebla and the Supplementary Article of Mexico of the 12th of May.

As you were not instructed to sign this Convention, Her Majesty's Government can refuse to ratify it without the smallest imputation of breach of faith.

You are, therefore, instructed to inform General Doblado that Her Majesty will not be advised to ratify the Convention of Puebla of the 28th of April, or the Supplementary Article signed at Mexico on the 12th of May.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL

SUPPLEMENTARY CONVENTION

BETWEEN

HER MAJESTY

AND THE

EMPEROR OF MOROCCO,

RELATIVE TO A

L O A N

TO BE

RAISED IN LONDON BY THE EMPEROR.

Signed, in the English and Arabic Languages, at Tangier, January 18, 1862.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

SUPPLEMENTARY CONVENTION between Her Majesty and the
Emperor of Morocco, relative to a Loan to be raised in
London by the Emperor.

Signed, in the English and Arabic languages, at Tangier, January 18, 1862.

[*Ratifications exchanged at Tangier, February 19, 1862.*]

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland having concluded a Convention with His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco, at Tangier, on the 24th day of October, 1861, corresponding to the Moorish date of the 18th of the month of Rabbea the Second, in the year 1278, for the purpose of facilitating the raising in London, by His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco, of a loan of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling, in order to enable him to meet his engagements with Her Catholic Majesty; and whereas it is proposed that the said sum of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling shall be raised at the rate of eighty-five pounds cash for each one hundred pounds stock, whereby the nominal amount of the loan will become five hundred and one thousand one hundred and seventy-six pounds, ten shillings, sterling; and doubts having been entertained whether the arrangements of the said Convention for the repayment of the loan extend to an amount of stock greater than the sum of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling, intended to be raised in cash; Her Britannic Majesty and His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco have resolved to conclude a further Convention on the subject, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, John Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Her Minister Resident at the Court of His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco;

And His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco, his Officer, the learned Fakee Seed Hadj Abderrahman el Ajee;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco engages that the arrangements of the said Convention so entered into as aforesaid shall apply, not only to the sum of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling intended to be raised in cash, or to so much thereof as shall be so raised, but shall extend to the sum of five hundred and one thousand one hundred and seventy-six pounds, ten shillings, sterling, being the amount of the stock proposed to be created to raise the said loan, or to such other amount of stock greater than the sum of five hundred and one thousand one hundred and seventy-six pounds, ten shillings, sterling, which it may be necessary to create in order to cover and include any discount, bonus, or other consideration which the Commissioner of His said Majesty may, with the concurrence and sanction of His said Majesty, allow to the subscribers to the said loan.

ARTICLE II.

The Commissioner of Her Britannic Majesty mentioned in the Convention aforesaid shall, by virtue of the said Convention, continue to receive the fifty per cent. of the Custom duties at all the ports of the Empire of Morocco, until not only the said sum of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling and interest thereon, but until also the amount of stock representing that sum, and any discount, bonus, or other consideration to be allowed to the subscribers to the said loan, as provided in the preceding Article, shall have been fully paid.

ARTICLE III.

In case only a part of the four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling cash should be raised, then the stipulations of Articles I and II shall apply only to the corresponding amount of stock.

ARTICLE IV.

The present Convention shall be ratified by Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and by His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Tangier as soon as possible within sixty days from the date hereof.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention, and have affixed thereto their respective seals.

Done at Tangier, the eighteenth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, corresponding to the Moorish date of the seventeenth of Rejeb, in the year one thousand two hundred and seventy-eight.

(L.S.) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

(Arabic signature of)

(L.S.) HADJ ABDERRAHMAN EL AJEE.

CONVENTION

BETWEEN

HER MAJESTY

AND THE

EMPEROR OF MOROCCO,

RELATIVE TO A

LOAN

TO BE

RAISED IN LONDON BY THE EMPEROR.

Signed, in the English and Arabic Languages, at Tangier, October 24, 1861.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

CONVENTION between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Morocco, relative to a Loan to be raised in London by the Emperor.

Signed, in the English and Arabic Languages, at Tangier, October 24, 1861.

[*Ratifications exchanged at Tangier, December 20, 1861.*]

HIS Majesty the Emperor of Morocco being desirous of raising a loan of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling in London, to enable him to meet his engagements with Her Catholic Majesty, and having requested the good offices of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with a view to facilitate that object; and Her Britannic Majesty having agreed to the request of His Imperial Majesty, their Majesties have resolved to conclude a Convention on the subject, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, John Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Her Minister Resident at the Court of His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco;

And His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco, his Officer, the learned Fakee Seed Hadj Abderrahman el Ajee;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco engages that from and after the ratification of the present Convention there shall be paid over to a Commissioner named by Her Britannic Majesty, fifty per cent. of the Custom duties at all the ports of the Empire of Morocco.

Her Britannic Majesty, on her part, engages that six weeks before the period at which the half-yearly charges on the loan of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling, which the Emperor of Morocco is about to raise, shall become due, she will transfer to the Agent or Agents of the Contractors for that loan, the sums so to be received by the Commissioner of Her Majesty, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to pay the interest and sinking fund on the said loan, the amount of such sums not exceeding in the aggregate fifteen per cent. on the above-mentioned sum of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling. But Her Britannic Majesty shall not be liable for the payment of more than she receives.

In case the sums received should be more than sufficient for such half-yearly payments, the surplus shall be repaid by the British Commissioner to the officers of the Emperor of Morocco, duly authorized to receive the same.

ARTICLE II.

When, by means of the payments provided for in the preceding Article, the whole of the loan of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling shall have been repaid, together with the interest due thereon, the Commissioner of Her Britannic Majesty shall cease to receive the fifty per cent. of the Custom duties at the ports above-mentioned, and shall repay to the said officers of the Emperor of Morocco any balance that may be remaining in his hands.

ARTICLE III.

The present Convention shall be ratified by Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and by His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Tangier as soon as possible within forty days from the date hereof.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention, and have affixed thereto their respective seals.

Done at Tangier, the twenty-fourth day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, corresponding to the Moorish date of the eighteenth day of the month of Rabbea the Second, in the year one thousand two hundred and seventy-eight.

(L.S.) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

(Arabic signature of)

(L.S.) HADJ ABDERRAHMAN EL AJEE.

PAPERS

RELATING TO

THE LOAN

RAISED BY THE

EMPEROR OF MOROCCO

IN

LONDON.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

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Papers relating to the Loan raised by the Emperor of Morocco
in London.

No. 1.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Lord J. Russell.—(Received August 15.)

(Extract.)

Dar Ben-el-Ouwad, Meknez, July 26, 1861.

I HAD an interview last night with the Ooozeer Yamani, at which Hadj Abderrahman Ajee and Seed Mohamed Maadanee Bennees were present.

The Ooozeer repeated the declaration made to me by the Sultan that he had not more than 1,000,000 dollars, but that he could deliver to the Spaniards grain to the value of another million, or sell off that amount in four or five months, and then pay the Spanish Government. He said that they could not venture, in consequence of the present strong opposition on the part of the tribes, to send this money by instalments to the ports for delivery to the Spanish Government, unless the evacuation of Tetuan simultaneously took place, as the Sultan's authority would be set at defiance, and revolution break out, and that he hoped this would be understood at Madrid. He said that there was money in the country, and long arrears of taxes due from the Kabail, but that the Sultan did not venture to march into the interior, and levy taxes as long as Tetuan was occupied, as he might have to contend with his own subjects.

The Ooozeer asked if the British Government could not help them to obtain a loan of 1,000,000 dollars, and thus, if Spain would not listen to their supplication for an acceptance of what they had to offer, assist in preventing a recommencement of the war, for he assured me that if the annexation of the territory of Tetuan did take place, the Sultan would be compelled to declare war, though he would otherwise refrain from hostilities as long as he was not attacked.

I replied that the British Parliament would object to any loan being made, or even guaranteed by Her Majesty's Government.

A British merchant resident in this country, Mr. Forde, having addressed me since my arrival here, a letter, stating that he could raise a loan in England at the rate of 10 per cent., I communicated it to the Minister, informing him, however, that I could not assume the slightest responsibility for the correctness of the information given me by the British merchant, nor interfere further in the matter than to let Mr. Forde know I had communicated his letter to the Ooozeer, and that, hereafter, should there be any farther correspondence, it must be carried on direct between himself and the Moorish Government.

The Ooozeer replied, that as the Sultan was sincere in desiring to fulfil his Treaty engagements, they would be most thankful to any Government or merchants who would help them by a loan, even if they had to make heavy sacrifices in the way of interest, and therefore he begged me to write to Mr. Forde, and to request him to communicate his propositions without delay to the Moorish Government.

No. 2.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received September 6.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, August 27, 1861.

I LEARN from Mr. Lewis Forde's agent at Gibraltar, Mr. Smith, that the former was supposed to be still at Londonderry. On the other hand, his agent at Saffee informed

me that he was expected at that port, on his way to the Moorish Court to make proposals to the Sultan regarding the loan. I have written both to his agents at Gibraltar and at Saffee, to recommend that Mr. Forde should come here, as Mulai Abbas has counselled the Sultan to send full-powers to himself, or, in his absence, to the Moorish Minister, to arrange about the terms of the loan, and guarantees that may be required; and to send a Royal Edict, leaving the name of the agent to be appointed in blank, authorizing that person, whether Mr. Forde or another, to make the loan.

If Mr. Forde has presented himself at the Foreign Office, and is in London at the time your Lordship receives this despatch, it would, perhaps, be advisable, if he still thinks he can negotiate the loan, that he come out to Tangier to receive his instructions and the proper authority from this Government. If an arrangement cannot be come to shortly with Mr. Forde, some other British subject will be selected by the Sultan, and sent to England. As the Moorish Government would require some months to realize 1,000,000 dollars from the sale of grain, it will be far better that a loan of 2,000,000 dollars should be made instead of 1,000,000, unless the Spanish Government agree to accept the grain. I think that it is very desirable Mulai Abbas should not have to treat about the term required to raise the extra 1,000,000 dollars demanded by the Spanish Government, but that his Highness should be enabled to offer the payment of the 3,000,000 dollars at once, and that the evacuation of Tetuan should take place simultaneously with that payment.

No. 3.

Earl Russell to Mr. Drummond Hay.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 13, 1861.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 27th ultimo, respecting the loan which the Moorish Government is endeavouring to raise in order to pay the Spanish indemnity; and I have to state to you, in reply, that the Sultan should empower some one in London to effect a loan of 2,000,000 dollars.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 4.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received September 27.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, September 16, 1861.

SEED HADJ ABDERRAHMAN EL AJEE, late Envoy to the British Court, arrived here a few days ago with full powers from the Sultan to enter into arrangements with Mr. Forde, or any other person who may be selected by him for contracting the loan in England. Mulai Abbas and the Sultan, as Ajee informs me, are most desirous that no time should be lost in contracting the loan, as the success of Mulai Abbas' mission greatly depends on the Sultan being enabled to offer the payment, at once, of the 3,000,000 dollars, inasmuch as His Majesty has not that entire amount at his disposal just now. A telegram has been sent to Mr. Forde to request him to come to Tangier as soon as possible.

No. 5.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Drummond Hay.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 7, 1861.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to state to you that, on being made acquainted with the nature of the Convention which Her Majesty is prepared to enter into with the Emperor of Morocco, in order to assist His Majesty in raising a loan in this country, Mr. Forde has resolved to proceed immediately to Tangier with the view of entering into direct communication with the Moorish Government on the subject of the loan; and at Mr. Forde's request I am authorized by his Lordship to instruct you to give that gentleman such support in his communications with the Moorish Government as in your judgment may be proper.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

Earl Russell to Mr. Drummond Hay.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, October 10, 1861.

IT appears from the communication which Mr. Forde has made, verbally, to me, through Mr. Layard, that the capitalists in this country, to whom he has applied with reference to the loan which the Sultan of Morocco is desirous of contracting in England to enable him to meet the demands of Spain, evince much hesitation as to embarking in such an undertaking, unless they can obtain, in some shape or other, collateral security for the fulfilment of the conditions under which the loan may be contracted.

The security which they would naturally prefer would be the guarantee of the British Government: but this, as you are well aware, Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to give. They could not do so without the consent of Parliament, and the Legislature of this country is decidedly opposed, on principle, to contracting a guarantee of that description, and would not consent to do so except under special circumstances, which do not exist in the present case.

Mr. Forde, however, infers that the success of his endeavours to procure the loan might be much facilitated if the Emperor of Morocco were, by Treaty, to engage to assign to an Agent to be named by His Majesty the revenue set apart for meeting the charges for the interest and sinking fund of the loan. Such an assignment would bear the character of an international engagement between England and Morocco, and, although it would not in any way bind the British Government to make good any deficiencies in the revenue set apart for the purpose, it would give an assurance to the contractors that, at least as far as that revenue went, it would be faithfully appropriated to the purposes of the loan. For it would be provided in any such Treaty between Her Majesty and the Sultan that the Agent named by Her Majesty for receiving from the Moorish authorities the appropriated revenue should, from time to time, pay over to the contractors of the loan a sufficient sum to meet the charges thereof for interest and sinking fund, and, if any balance should remain after doing so, should pay over such balance to the Moorish Treasury.

Her Majesty's Government being anxious to contribute, as far as they can properly do so, to extricate the Sultan from his present difficulties, are prepared to adopt Mr. Forde's suggestion.

The revenue to be set apart for the purposes of the loan is that half of the Customs duties levied in the Moorish ports which still remains unpledged to the Spanish Government, and Her Majesty's Government understand that the Sultan is prepared to assign this revenue as security for the contractors.

No. 7.

Earl Russell to Mr. Drummond Hay.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, October 10, 1861.

HER Majesty's Government understand that the Sultan is prepared to assign for the purposes of the loan to be raised in this country, to enable him to meet the present demands of Spain, one-half of the receipts of the Custom-houses at the Moorish ports, the other half being already pledged to Spain.

It appears also from the communications which have passed between Sir John Crampton and the Spanish Government, that the latter disclaim having any lien or claim whatever on the half of the Customs of the ports of Morocco which is not pledged to them.

Mr. Forde, who has been in communication with the capitalists in this country on the subject of the loan, appears to be of opinion that under the security offered by the proposed Convention, not only may the limited amount now contemplated be raised on moderate terms, but even a sufficient sum to extricate Morocco from all her debt to Spain.

Her Majesty's Government are however indisposed, as at present advised, to undertake for more than is stated in the Draft Convention. That sum will suffice to meet the present necessities of Morocco, and the interference of Her Majesty's Government in the manner proposed may be justified not only by the urgency of the case, which admits of no delay, but also by the moderate amount of the sum at stake.

It may also be more to the advantage of the Sultan that his first trial of the money market should be made on a small scale; for if, as Her Majesty's Government do not doubt will be the case, the Moorish Government punctually fulfils its engagement on the present occasion, it would appeal to the British capitalists on any future occasion with all the advantage resulting from a well-established credit.

With a view also to the same object, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Moorish Government would do well to provide for the early extinction of the loan now to be contracted, by assigning a liberal per-centage for the sinking fund. If by reason of the Convention the loan can be obtained at a lower rate of interest, the Moorish Government might do well to appropriate for the sinking fund, in addition to any other sum, the difference between such moderate rate of interest and that which it is understood they were prepared to pay; and, moreover, if Morocco really possesses the abundant means which are attributed to it, and only requires some short time and a favourable opportunity to render those means available, there can be no real difficulty in stipulating that such an amount should be assigned in each year for the redemption of the loan as would insure the extinction of the whole debt within a very limited period.

The Draft Convention does not specify the particular Agent of the British Government into whose hands the proceeds of the Moorish Customs appropriated to the loan should be paid; but it will probably be found most convenient in practice that Her Majesty's Consular authorities at the several ports should be charged with this duty under the superintendence of Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier.

I presume that the Moorish Government will not hesitate to engage in some binding form, until the loan is paid off, not to interfere by prohibitions with the export of Moorish produce of which the export is now allowed, and to take no steps of a fixed nature which may interfere with the development of the trade of Morocco with foreign countries. This might be done by an official note addressed to yourself.

No. 8.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received October 11.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, October 2, 1861.

HADJ ABDERRAHMAN AJEE, the officer who has been sent here by the Sultan with full powers to make arrangements about the negotiation of the loan, called upon me this morning to express the gratitude of the Moorish Government for the proposed aid of the British Government.

He says he is prepared to sign a Convention containing the terms your Lordship thinks proper to require regarding the guarantee to be given, and therefore suggests that the wording of the stipulation should be drawn up in England.

No. 9.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received November 1.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, October 22, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches of the 10th instant.

Ajee says his full powers would hardly authorize him to accede to the proposed terms, without a reference to the Sultan; that as the Spanish Cortes were about to meet, it was of the greatest importance no time should be lost; that it would require about a fortnight to communicate with the Sultan by letter, and that written explanations upon subjects little understood by this Government were a very unsatisfactory manner of negotiation. He therefore said it would be conferring a very great favour upon the Moorish Government, and upon himself, if I would consent to proceed with him by sea to Rabat, where the Sultan had arrived, and to explain *viva voce* the propositions of the British Government, and to ask that he should receive the fullest authority to settle all matters on the arrival of Mr. Forde, who I learn is expected to arrive at Gibraltar to-day.

Taking into consideration these suggestions, and as I coincided entirely with Hadj Abderrahman on the importance of settling all matters, if possible, with the Sultan *viva voce*, I applied at once to Captain Warden, the senior naval officer at Gibraltar, for one

of Her Majesty's steamers, and I proceeded to Rabat with the Moorish Plenipotentiary on the evening of the 18th.

We had bad weather, and could not land till the 20th instant.

On my arrival, the Chief Oozeer called upon me, and fixed my audience with the Sultan for the following morning.

After I had made known to His Majesty the object of my visit, he expressed himself as being most grateful to Her Majesty's Government for the strong interest they took in his welfare. He remarked that "true friends are known in the hour of misfortune," and added that, as he had required the aid of a friendly Government, it was a great relief for him to feel that it came from a Government whose actions were always marked by disinterested feelings, and whose aim was to promote peace and goodwill between other nations. His Majesty said, "I shall never forget the hand that has been extended to me in adversity."

His Majesty informed me that he should give the fullest powers to Hadj Abderrahman Ajee (after hearing the terms Mr. Forde had to propose on the part of the contractors for the loan) to fill up the blanks of the proposed Convention.

His Majesty informed me that he intended to march to Morocco when affairs were arranged about the evacuation of Tetuan; that he had sent several officers with troops to collect arrears of taxes from districts which had not paid them for three years, and he said that before he arrived at Morocco he hoped to have collected in taxes alone, in grain and money, upwards of 2,000,000 of dollars, and to have punished those Chiefs who when they knew the precarious position he had been placed in during the Spanish war, had set at nought his authority, and withheld the receipts of taxes received from his subjects. "I must now," said His Majesty, "show my people I can reward the subject and punish the traitor."

His Majesty observed that it was sound advice the British Government had given him about paying as much as it was in his power to do towards the sinking fund, so as to extinguish the debt, and he added that he desired to show not only to the British Government that their kind confidence had not been misplaced, but to gain also the future goodwill and confidence of British capitalists. His Majesty went on, however, to say, that he confided in my discretion in the arrangement with Mr. Forde, and therefore would give the fullest powers to Seed Abderrahman Ajee to sign with me the Convention.

His Majesty requested me not only to express to Her Majesty's Government his gratitude for the timely aid they had afforded him, but also for my visit to Rabat.

After the interview with His Majesty, I embarked yesterday on board Her Majesty's steam-ship "Trident," and arrived here this morning.

I now await alone the arrival of Mr. Forde, to learn the terms of the contractors, to draw up and sign the Convention.

Hadj Abderrahman Ajee has exhibited to me the full powers he has received, and he is prepared to address me a note regarding prohibitions on the exportation of produce in the sense your Lordship has suggested, after the signature of the Convention.

No. 10.

Earl Russell to Mr. Drummond Hay.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 2, 1861.*

I HAVE received your despatches of the 22nd of October, and I have to acquaint you that I entirely approve of your having proceeded to Rabat to have a personal interview with the Sultan of Morocco.

I conclude, from a telegram that I have received from Sir John Crampton reporting Mr. Forde's passage through Madrid with the Convention which you had signed with the Moorish Government, that Mr. Forde's interview with the Moorish Plenipotentiary resulted in a satisfactory understanding on the subject of the loan.

Sir John Crampton has reported to me that Mulai Abbas has concluded a Convention with the Spanish Government, according to which Tetuan will be evacuated on the payment of 3,000,000 dollars, but that if the money is not forthcoming within five months, the Convention will be void; and that as regards the remaining 10,000,000 dollars of the indemnity, half of the Customs revenues of Morocco is to be handed over to a Spanish Commissioner until the whole sum is paid off.

On this I have to observe, that it seems to me that the Spanish Government have properly fixed a term for the payment to be made, which is to be followed by the

evacuation of Tetuan; and that the Sultan should not hesitate to appeal to the loyalty and patriotism of his subjects to enable him to fulfil the conditions by which that evacuation will be secured.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 11.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received November 8.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, October 24, 1861.

MR. FORDE has arrived, and he has had several interviews with Hadj Abderrahman Ajee, the Moorish Plenipotentiary, and with myself.

Mr. Forde could not give Hadj Abderrahman any positive information regarding the rate of interest which would be required by the contractors for the loan, in consequence, as he said, of the constant variation that takes place in the money-market. Hadj Abderrahman therefore observed, that it would be unwise for him to insert in the Convention the rate of interest, as he was very ignorant of such matters, and that if he put too large a rate it would entail a loss, whilst, on the other hand, if he inserted a low rate it might stop the negotiation for the loan.

Under these circumstances, and as Mr. Forde had told us that a copy of the Convention would probably have to be embodied in the bonds or scrips, Hadj Abderrahman agreed with me in thinking that to prevent a further loss of time it would be advisable to sign the Convention and send it to your Lordship, leaving in blank the annual rate of interest and rate by way of sinking fund. In a letter he has addressed me, he has requested me to beg Her Majesty's Government to have the kindness to fill up these blanks when the loan is arranged with the contractors.

I trust that if I have erred in consenting to ask Her Majesty's Government to accede to this proposition, and in having signed the Convention without filling up the blanks, I shall be excused by your Lordship under the peculiar circumstances of the case and the urgent necessity that no time should be lost.

Should your Lordship disapprove, then the Convention can be returned.

If your Lordship accedes to the request of the Moorish Plenipotentiary, then I might be apprized by telegram of the rate of interest and rate for sinking fund which may be fixed upon, and having inserted these items I could send the Convention forthwith for ratification to the Sultan.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a certificate given by Her Majesty's Consul to Mr. Forde at his request, containing an average return of the imports and exports of Morocco during four late years, and certifying also the rate of duties which are levied.

According to this calculation half the receipts of the Customs would amount to about 161,000*l*.

This leaves an ample margin, and will, I think, afford excellent security to the contractors. I have no doubt Mr. Reade's calculations are exact, being taken from the Consular Trade Returns.

I have the honour to transmit herewith translations of the letter addressed to me by Seed Abderrahman Ajee, of the instructions he has given Mr. Forde in two separate letters, of the Royal mandate empowering Mr. Forde to act as his agent, and of the Royal mandate giving full powers to Ajee to sign the Convention.

From the Inclosure No. 4 your Lordship will learn that Mr. Forde is instructed by Ajee not to fix the interest or conclude the loan without a reference to Her Majesty's Government; the reasons given for this step are stated in Ajee's letter to me, namely, that he desires to make sure there will be no hitch at Madrid about the evacuation of Tetuan, and payment of the 3,000,000 dollars before the loan is made, as the Sultan does not want the money, except with the view of paying the Spanish Government for the evacuation of Tetuan.

In the letter addressed by Ajee to myself your Lordship will also observe that he engages on the part of the Sultan that no prohibition not existing at the present time will be imposed on trade; indeed, he tells me he hopes that the existing prohibition on the exportation of wheat may ere long be removed.

He also engages that the payment of all charges shall be made in English, Spanish, or French coin, and not Moorish coin, which, though free from alloy, would be inconvenient to transmit to England or Gibraltar. French and Spanish gold and silver coins are current throughout this country; English sovereigns are more rare.

I have further the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Convention which has been signed this day by the Moorish Plenipotentiary and myself.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Statement of the Average Annual Value of the Morocco Trade.

THIS is to certify that the total value of goods imported at the several ports of Morocco, during the years 1856, 1857, and 1858, as well as during the last nine months of the year 1860, amounted, on an average, to about 76,397*l.* per month, or to 916,764*l.* per annum, whilst the exports at the same ports, and during the same period, averaged about 77,076*l.* per month, or 924,912*l.* per annum.

N.B.—The whole of the year 1859, and the first quarter of the succeeding year, are excluded from the above-stated period, on account of the general stagnation of trade, which then prevailed at the Moorish ports, in consequence of the war with Spain.

It is hereby further certified, that the import duties in this country amount to about 10 per cent. and the export duties to about 25 per cent. of the goods upon which they are levied.

Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate, Tangier, October 23, 1861.

(Signed)

THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Hadj Abderrahman-el-Ajee to Mr. Drummond Hay.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

(After the usual preamble.)

AS you have heard from our Lord the Sultan, in your late audience, the expressions of His Majesty's gratitude for the friendly aid afforded by the British Government in facilitating the loan, it is unnecessary for us to repeat that we shall never forget the kindness and sympathy that has been shown to our Government in a moment of great difficulty.

We will not conceal from you, however, that we have been somewhat disappointed that a fresh delay has occurred in effecting the loan, in consequence of Mr. Forde being unable to afford us any positive information regarding the rate of interest which may be demanded by the contractors for the loan: he merely tells us that it may vary from 4 to 7 per cent. We do not like to fix the rate of interest which is to be paid, lest, in naming too high a rate, we entail a loss; and, on the other hand, if we name too low a rate, there might be difficulty in contracting the loan. It is on this account, and after due consultation with yourself and Mr. Forde, and in order not to lose time by a further reference to England, we decided on leaving in blank in the Convention the rate of interest to be paid, and on asking your Government to add to the favours already conferred, by inserting in the Convention the rate of interest at which the loan may be effected; and we have directed the Moorish Commissioner, Mr. Forde, as you will learn by the inclosed copies of his instructions, to consult with the British Government before the rate of interest is fixed, and, under any circumstances, before he concludes the loan. Whatever the British Government approves of and inserts, our Lord the Sultan and we shall accept and approve of.

We further acquaint you, for the satisfaction of your Government and the contractors of the loan that no prohibition, not existing now, will be imposed on the exports or imports, until the complete redemption of the loan takes place. We have also to state that the quarterly charges paid to the British Commissioner will be effected in British, French, or Spanish coin.

We inclose, for your information, a copy of the mandate sent by the Sultan to Forde. With this authority, and the instructions we have given him, he is empowered to sign all bonds or documents requisite on such occasions. We have, however, instructed Mr. Forde, before he closes with the contractors for the loan, to apply to your Government. Our object in giving this instruction is to provide against the contingency of the possibility of the Spanish Government withdrawing from the propositions they had made, through your Government, that the Sultan should offer 3,000,000 dollars, and that this sum would be accepted and Tetuan evacuated. We have written to Mulai Abbas to tell him what has

taken place here, and to say that we believe and hope the 2,000,000 dollars will be ready to be paid in England before the expiration of the month of November, and to suggest that he communicate this to the Spanish Government, saying that he is ready to sign the Treaty for the payment of the money and evacuation of Tetuan, the day he hears the money is in hand; that if the Spanish Government make no difficulty, Mulai Abbas is to communicate this to the British Ambassador, who, we hope, will kindly telegraph it to your Government, and the loan be thus effected. But, if fresh impediments are offered, then Mulai Abbas will likewise communicate with Her Majesty's Government, who, we hope, would then suspend the negotiation for the loan until some arrangement be entered into with the Spanish Government, for, as you well understand, we do not desire to have this money on our hands and to pay the charges thereon, except for the purpose of effecting the object we have now in view.

We inclose a copy of the letter we have addressed Forde on this subject.

In conclusion, we again beg that every expedition should be used in bringing this negotiation to a conclusion. It is of vital importance to our Lord the Sultan, who is most anxious that Mulai Abbas should return to resume the Caliphate of the Northern Provinces, as soon as he is enabled to arrange, by Treaty, with the Spanish Government, when the evacuation of Tetuan and the payment of the 3,000,000 dollars is to take place. If fresh delay occurs we know not what might be the consequences.

Peace.

18 Rabea the Second, year 1278 (23rd October, 1861).

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Hadj Abderrahman-el-Ajee to Mr. Forde.

(Translation.)

PRAISE to the one God!

To the English merchant Lewis Forde, Esq. We salute you.

Be it known to you, our Lord the Sultan (may God protect him!) having heard of your zeal, intelligence, and fidelity has been pleased to appoint you as his Commissioner for contracting a loan of 426,000*l.* sterling in London, and he also empowers you to pay this sum over to our Lord the Viceroy of the Sultan, Mulai Abbas, whenever you may receive directions to that effect.

We send you herewith the Shereefian mandate of our Lord, bearing his signet, for the general information of yourself and of all whom it may concern; and, further, a certified copy of the full powers given to us by our Lord to conclude a Convention with the Minister of Great Britain in these dominions, in which Convention our Lord the Sultan gives, as security for the loan, half the receipts of all the ports of his dominions, and in which will be stated the annual rate to be paid for interest, and also a further annual rate to be paid for the redemption of the loan.

The security as given by our Lord is very ample, and will, with God's help, exceed considerably the said charges.

We now have to instruct you to proceed to London without delay. It is most important no time should be lost. We authorize you to arrange about the rate of interest, and rate for the redemption of the loan. We have further to authorize you, as in accordance with the authority invested in you by the mandate of our Lord the Sultan, to sign and seal all bonds or other documents on behalf of this Government, relative to the loan, or for the issue of bonds prescribed by the usages on such occasions in England or elsewhere.

Finished, 18th Rabea the second, year 1278 (23rd October, 1861).

The Officer of the Court, exalted by God,
(Signed) HADJ ABDERRAHMAN-EL-AJEE,
Whom God assist.

Inclosure 4 in No. 11.

Hadj Abderrahman-el-Ajee to Mr. Forde.

(Translation.)

IN the name of the most merciful God!

To the English merchant, Mr. Lewis Forde. We salute you.

We send you this private letter in addition to that which we addressed you under this date, and we direct you not to come to any final settlement with the contractor for the loan regarding the several charges thereon, until you have consulted with the British

Government, and they express their approval; and likewise to consult the British Government about the arrangement of the rate of interest, and rate for the redemption of the loan, and act according to their good advice.

We have begged them to let you know when to bring to a conclusion the negotiation for the loan, as it is for a particular object only that the loan is to be effected.

Finished, 19th Rabea the second, year 1278 (24th October, 1861).

The Officer of the Court, exalted by God,
(Signed) HADJ ABDERRAHMAN-EL-AJEE,
Whom God assist.

Inclosure 5 in No. 11.

Full-Power to Mr. Forde.

(The Royal Signet of the Sultan of Morocco, Seedi Mohamed.)

(Translation.)

BE it known from this our letter (may God exalt its validity, and render it luminous as the sun and moon!) that we have empowered the merchant Lewis Forde to raise a loan of 2,000,000 dollars from the capitalists (subjects) of the English Government, and that he is also authorized to deliver the amount to whomsoever may be selected by our brother, the Honourable Mulai Abbas. May God protect him on account of the Spanish Government, but that he should not take upon himself (to pay the money) except at the time and to the person as he may be directed.

Peace.

10th Rabea the second, year 1278 (October 16, 1861).

Inclosure 6 in No. 11.

Full-Power to Hadj Abderrahman-el-Ajee.

(The Royal Signet of the Sultan of Morocco, Seedi Mohamed.)

(Translation.)

IN the name of God, the merciful and clement! There is no strength or power but in God, the most high and mighty!

Be it known by this our letter, elevated and protected by God, and luminous as the sun and moon, that we have, by the help of God, granted to our employed, the Honourable Hadj Abderrahman-el-Ajee, full power and authority to conclude with the Minister, Mr. John Hay Drummond Hay, the Convention, and to treat with the merchant, Lewis Forde, regarding the arrangements relative to the loan of 2,000,000 dollars, to be advanced by the British capitalists, and that we shall in no way disapprove of any one of the arrangements (which he, the said Hadj Abderrahman-el-Ajee, may come to in the negotiation), for we have ceded to him all the authority (requisite) to act in the matter, according to his own free judgment, and without having to refer again to us for instructions. He has our full powers, and whatsoever he may do will be well done.

Peace.

Done on the 14th day of the present month (of Rabea the Second) of this year (1278) (October 20, 1861).

Inclosure 7 in No. 11.

Convention between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Morocco, to enable him to raise a Loan; signed at Tangier, October 24, 1861.

HIS Majesty the Emperor of Morocco being desirous of raising a loan of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling in London, to enable him to meet his engagements with Her Catholic Majesty, and having requested the good offices of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with a view to facilitate that object; and Her Britannic Majesty having agreed to the request of His Imperial Majesty, Their Majesties have resolved to conclude a Convention on the subject, and have named as their Plenipotentiaries (that is to say):—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, John Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, her Minister Resident at the Court of His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco ;

And His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco, his Officer the learned Fakee Seed Hadj Abderrahman el Ajee :

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco engages, that from and after the ratification of the present Convention, there shall be paid over to a Commissioner named by Her Britannic Majesty, fifty per cent. of the Custom duties at all the ports of the Empire of Morocco.

Her Britannic Majesty on her part engages that, six weeks before the period at which the half-yearly charges on the loan of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling, which the Emperor of Morocco is about to raise, shall become due, she will transfer to the agent or agents of the contractors for that loan the sums so to be received by the Commissioner of Her Majesty, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to pay the interest [on the said loan, at the annual rate of per cent., together with a further annual rate of per cent. by way of sinking fund for the redemption of the loan*].

But Her Britannic Majesty shall not be liable for the payment of more than she receives.

In case the sums received should be more than sufficient for such half-yearly payments, the surplus shall be repaid by the British Commissioner to the officers of the Emperor of Morocco duly authorized to receive the same.

ARTICLE II.

When by means of the payments provided for in the preceding Article, the whole of the loan of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling shall have been repaid, together with the interest due thereon, the Commissioner of Her Britannic Majesty shall cease to receive the fifty per cent. of the Custom duties at the ports above mentioned, and shall repay to the said officers of the Emperor of Morocco any balance that may be remaining in his hands.

ARTICLE III.

The present Convention shall be ratified by Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and by His Majesty the Emperor of Morocco, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Tangier as soon as possible within forty days from the date hereof.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention, and have affixed thereto their respective seals.

Done at Tangier the twenty-fourth day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, corresponding to the Moorish date of the eighteenth day of the month of Rabbea the Second, in the year one thousand two hundred and seventy-eight.

(L.S.) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.
(L.S.) (Signature of the Moorish Plenipotentiary.)

No. 12.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received November 4.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, October 24, 1861.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship my previous despatch of this date, Mr. Forde has decided upon returning to England via Madrid, in order that he may learn from Mulai Abbas, or from Her Majesty's Envoy, as requested by the Moorish Plenipotentiary, whether the Spanish Government adheres to their intention of evacuating Tetuan as soon as the 3,000,000 dollars are paid by the Sultan.

The overland route will only cause a delay of two or three days, and Mr. Forde will,

* In the amended Convention, laid before Parliament separately, these words were changed to—"and sinking fund on the said loan, the amount of such sums not exceeding in the aggregate fifteen per cent. on the above-mentioned sum of four hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds sterling."

at Madrid, be enabled to learn whether the loan should be negotiated at once; for if the Spanish Government withdraw from their intention, as announced to Her Majesty's Government previously to my mission to Mequinez, the Sultan would not, of course, desire to raise the loan, which would entail on his revenue a heavy annual charge.

No. 13.

Earl Russell to Mr. Drummond Hay.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 26, 1861.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 24th October, reporting your proceedings in regard to the Convention which you were authorized to sign with a Moorish Plenipotentiary with a view to facilitate the raising in this country of a loan to enable the Moorish Government to meet the pressing demands of Spain, and so to bring about the immediate evacuation of Tetuan, and inclosing the Convention which you had signed on that day.

I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your conduct in regard to this matter.

You will have learned by the telegram which, at Mr. Forde's request, was sent to you on the 20th instant, the terms on which he was enabled to raise the money. Those terms appear to me to be very advantageous to the Moorish Government, and I doubt not will be thankfully accepted by them.

You will also have been apprised by my subsequent telegram of the same date of the alteration which it was necessary to make in that part of the first Article of the Convention in which blanks, to be filled up in England, were left at the time of signing, in order to adapt the terms of the Article to the actual state of things.

Her Majesty's ratification of the amended English version, alone, is sent to you this day; but it will be necessary that an amended copy of the Convention, bearing the same date as the original, should be signed in English and Arabic, and transmitted to this country simultaneously with the Emperor of Morocco's ratification, which should be, if possible, in both languages.

No. 14.

Earl Russell to Mr. Drummond Hay.

Sir, I TRANSMIT, for your information, copies of a correspondence which has passed with Mr. Forde relative to the Moorish loan which is now being raised in this country.

I am, &c.

(Signed) RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Mr. Forde to Earl Russell.

My Lord,

London, November 27, 1861.

THE contractors for the proposed Moorish loan having raised a question whether the language of the Convention between the Moorish Government and the Government of Her Majesty extends to the bonus of 15 per cent. proposed to be given to the subscribers beyond the 426,000*l.*, I shall feel obliged if, on behalf of the British Government, you will kindly state in writing that there will be no objection to the extension of the Convention to cover the nominal value of the proposed loan, say 501,176*l.*; I, on behalf of the Government of the Emperor of Morocco, agreeing that so soon as practicable a supplemental Convention shall be entered into, by which the terms of the existing Convention shall be expressly extended to the whole sum of 501,176*l.* 10*s.* and interest thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEWIS FORDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Mr. Layard to Mr. Forde.

Sir, I AM directed by Earl Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, stating that the contractors for the Moorish loan have raised a question whether

the terms of the Convention between the Moorish Government and Her Majesty Government extend to the bonus of 15 per cent. proposed to be given to the subscribers beyond the 426,000*l.*, and requesting to know whether there will be any objection on the part of the British Government to the extension of the Convention to cover the nominal value of proposed loan, say 501,176*l.*, provided you should agree on behalf of the Moorish Government that as soon as possible a supplemental Convention shall be entered into, by which the terms of the existing Convention shall be expressly extended to the whole sum of 501,176*l.* 10*s.*, and interest thereon.

I am directed by Lord Russell to inform you in reply that Her Majesty's Government will not, under the circumstances stated, object to the extension of the present Convention, so as to make it in accordance with the intentions of the Contracting Parties as laid down in your letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 15.

Earl Russell to Mr. Drummond Hay.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1861.

YOU will have seen by the correspondence with Mr. Forde, of which copies were inclosed in my despatch of the 3rd instant, that it was considered to be necessary that a Supplementary Convention should be concluded between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Morocco, by which the provisions of the Convention of the 24th of October should be extended to cover the amount of stock which it should be necessary to raise to produce the net sum of 426,000*l.*, and to provide for any charges for bonus.

I have, since the date of that despatch, been in communication with Mr. Forde, who, you will have seen in the correspondence, undertook to explain to the Moorish Government the necessity for a Supplementary Convention, and I understand from him that he is about to send to Tangier his partner, Mr. William Henry Smith, to act on his behalf with the Moorish Government.

In anticipation of Mr. Smith's obtaining the concurrence of the Moorish Government in regard to the Supplementary Convention, I at once authorize you, on learning from Mr. Smith that he has prepared the Moorish Government for its reception, formally to announce your readiness to conclude and sign such a Convention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 16.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received December 12.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, December 4, 1861.

I AWAITED the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 26th ultimo, before I made out the amended copies of the Convention.

This morning, the Moorish Plenipotentiary and I signed the amended copies, bearing the date of the 24th October. I will transmit an amended copy to England when I receive the Sultan's ratification, which I expect in a few days.

With regard to the loan, I made Mulai Abbas acquainted with the terms of the contractors, as reported by Mr. Forde, and I informed his Highness that your Lordship considered the terms very advantageous.

His Highness replied that he did not well comprehend the monetary system by which loans are effected in Europe, but that your Lordship's opinion sufficed for their satisfaction, though he did understand that the aggregate annual amount to be paid was less than the Moorish Government had been led to suppose would be required.

No. 17.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received January 2, 1862.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 22, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 11th instant respecting a Supplementary Convention to be concluded between

Her Majesty and the Emperor of Morocco, extending the provisions of the Convention of the 24th October, so as to cover the amount of stock which should be raised to produce the sum of 426,000*l.*, and to provide for any charges for bonus.

I have delayed taking any steps in this matter until Mr. William Henry Smith arrives from England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 18.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received January 12, 1862.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 22, 1861.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Sultan's ratification of the Convention concluded between Great Britain and Morocco on the 24th October last, and also the amended original of that Convention.

I further inclose the document you directed me to transmit to your Lordship, certifying the exchange of ratifications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

No. 19.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received January 11, 1862.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, December 30, 1861.

MR. W. H. SMITH arrived yesterday, and had an interview with Hadj Abderrahma el Ajee, at which I was present.

Hadj Abderrahman sent this morning a telegram to Mr. Forde, worded as follows: "Conclude loan on terms of prospectus, and deposit the money in the London and County Bank."

No. 20.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received January 12.)

(Extract.)

Tangier, January 3, 1862.

MR. SMITH has communicated to the Moorish Plenipotentiary the Supplementary Convention, and I have also made known to Mulai Abbas why the provisions contained in this Convention are thought to be requisite.

His Highness, as also Hadj Abderrahman el Ajee, have replied that whenever tidings are received that the loan has been concluded on the terms of the prospectus which had been communicated to the Sultan, they will be willing to accept the Supplementary Convention; but, under the present circumstances, as some alteration might be required in the wording of the Convention, if the loan is not effected on the original terms, they think it advisable to await further communication from Mr. Forde regarding the progress of the loan.

No. 21.

Mr. Drummond Hay to Earl Russell.—(Received February 1.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 18, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, the Supplementary Convention signed this day by Hadj Abderrahman-el-Ajee and by myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

MOROCCO.

PAPERS relating to the Loan raised by the Emperor
of Morocco in London.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1862.*

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

REPORT
ON THE
FINANCIAL CONDITION
OF
TURKEY,

BY
MR. FOSTER AND LORD HOBART,

DATED
DECEMBER 7, 1861.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

No.	Description.	Piastres.	Sterling, converted at 125 piastres per £1.
			£
11	Boissons	4,690,874	37,527
12	Tapou	6,924,908	55,400
13	Droits divers	101,657,297	813,258
14	Poste	6,267,736	50,142
15	Imprimerie	916,286	7,330
16	Divers immeubles du Gouvernement	3,457,318	27,658
17	Pêcherie	2,003,097	16,020
18	Forêts	660,972	5,288
19	Fermes Impériales	7,810,745	62,486
20	Salines	10,692,175	85,537
21	Mines	1,143,809	9,150
22	Montant des immeubles vendus	505,000	4,040
23	Revenus fixes	46,787,000	374,296
24	Revenu de l'Arsenal	14,839,888	118,719
25	„ du Tidjaret	777,062	6,216
		1,213,950,983	9,711,608

1. *Verghi*.

The “*verghi*,” which produced 278,040,021 piastres, about 2,224,000*l.*, is an impost in the nature of an income tax, and is in theory paid by each individual in proportion to his actual wealth from whatever source derived. But between the “*verghi*” and an income tax as ordinarily understood there is an important distinction. The latter consists of a fixed annual per-centage on the income of each person liable to the tax, and its total produce, therefore, varies with the aggregate amount of the incomes upon which it is charged. In the case of the “*verghi*,” a fixed annual sum was imposed once for all, many years ago, upon each Province of the Empire, upon each of the districts (“*casas*”) composing that province, and upon each town or village contained in such district; and the proportion of the sum payable by each individual is decided upon annually by the authorities of the town or village to which he belongs.

The tax as thus assessed and levied gives rise to general and well-founded complaint. There are two great evils incidental to it, viz. :

1. Inequitable apportionment as between provinces, districts, and villages.

It is easily understood that the changes which time has produced in the relative wealth of the different communities have rendered the pressure of a tax fixed upon them at a very distant date unequal in the extreme at the present day. The evil is notorious and admitted on all hands. So great are the inequalities, that while in some villages the impost is scarcely felt, there are some in which it has been so oppressive as to have put a stop to cultivation altogether, and to have driven the population from their homes.

It is evident that this state of things cannot continue to exist without increasing injury to the commercial and industrial interests of the Empire, and to the revenue which depends upon their prosperity.

2. Inequitable apportionment as between individuals.

The amount of “*verghi*” payable by each person is (as we have already stated) decided annually by the authorities of the town or village to which he belongs. The distribution, which is ostensibly based upon the relative wealth of each member of the community, ascertained, as well as the nature of the case admits, by the produce of his land, the value or rent of his house, mill, or shop, or the scale of his expenditure, has hitherto been made in the rudest, most informal, and most arbitrary manner, without anything like systematic regulation, or any supervision of or check upon the proceedings of the village Councils. The consequence has been that all kinds of unfairness, favouritism, and unjust exaction, have prevailed in the assessment of the impost, and in particular, that the wealthier classes have, by means of their interest with those in official authority, usually escaped with a very light application, or with no application at all, of the tax, which therefore falls with additional weight upon the poorer portion of the community.

Both of these evils have been for a considerable time looked upon by the Turkish Government as extremely serious; and the remedy which it seems inclined to adopt is that of an elaborate census and “*cadastre*,” or valuation of property, and the payment by each individual of a certain fixed per-centage upon his property as thus estimated.

This scheme, or one similar to it in principle, has already been put in force at Smyrna and at Salonica, as well as at Broussa and Janina; and there is (we believe) some intention of adopting it throughout the Empire.

The proposed measure includes the appointment of a Commission of twenty-seven

persons, consisting of a President and twenty-six other members, four of whom are to be "experts," and which is to be divided into four sections, each of which is to have the fourth part of a province under its charge, until the whole is completed, and to be assisted in each town or village by persons chosen by the inhabitants for that purpose.

The Commissioners are to number the population, to measure and value the land, to value the houses and other property, and to estimate the amount of the incomes derived from trades, professions, and other sources, in each locality.

This done, a fixed annual per-centage of 4 per mille is to be levied on the value of all immoveable property; of 4 per cent. on the proceeds of such property; and of 3 per cent. on income proceeding from any other source, such as the profit of trades and professions.

To meet the expense of carrying the measure into effect, a further tax is to be imposed of 1 per mille on the value of real property, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on annual income for one year only.

The measure thus contemplated appears liable to some objections.

A tax paid by the same person both on his capital and his income, both on his property and that which it produces, must operate in many respects inequitably, and is sure to be borne with peculiar reluctance. Moreover the scheme is costly, and its cost is to be defrayed directly by the taxpayer. It effects a change of a somewhat violent character, and as such would probably be ill-received. Nor is it likely that the difficulties of a "cadastre," which have been found in France and other European countries insuperably great, will be successfully overcome in Turkey. In fact, as regards the localities in which the scheme has been put in force, we are led to believe that nothing like a fair measurement or valuation of property has been taken.

On the whole we are disposed to think it may be desirable that some less violent, less complicated, less tedious, and less costly remedy should be applied to evils which press urgently for redress, but which for the present seem more susceptible of alleviation than of absolute cure.

The following scheme (which is in substance nearly the same as one which has been suggested by a member of the "Conseil du Trésor"), or some modification of it, might probably be found to be the best of which the nature of the case admits:—

1. With respect to the unequal incidence of the tax upon provinces, casas, and villages:

The Governor of each province should institute an inquiry with a view to ascertain what proportion of the amount of "verghi" for which the province is liable should be paid: (a), by each district (casa); (b), by each town or village which belongs to that district.

For this purpose he should call a Council, consisting of Deputies from each casa, and should decide upon the sum to be paid by each of them, taking into consideration its population, trade, industry, comparative fertility, and the amount which it pays in the way of tithe and other taxes.

He should then visit each casa in turn, and call a Council consisting of Deputies from the different villages of which it is composed, and decide in the same manner upon the sum to be paid by each village. In his decisions with regard to the villages, he would of course be assisted by the information and advice of the District Councils.

A full report should be sent by each Governor to the Porte, showing, as clearly as possible, the data and the principles upon which the re-distribution has been made.

As between the provinces, the re-adjustment of the tax should be made by the Porte itself, with the help of a Council of Representatives, of whom one should be sent by each province, and with the further assistance which it might derive from consultation with former Provincial Governors, and from the results of the inquiries made by the present Governors in regard to the distribution of the tax.

2. With respect to the unjust apportionment of the tax as between individuals, a new Regulation has recently been issued by the Porte, with a view to the mitigation of this evil:

It prescribes a regular course of proceeding for the annual assessment of the tax; provides for the making of lists, the keeping of registers, and their conveyance by the village authorities to the Council of the district, which is to examine and verify them, to note its approval in the margin, and then to send them back to the Council of the village.

The District Councils are specially charged to see "that no influential person escape payment according to his means."

All disputes as to the amount at which any person is rated are to be referred to the District Council, with an appeal to the superior authorities of the province.

At the end of the year the District Council is to examine the registers, and to compel

payment by those who are in default; and to take care that the alleged debts are real, and that the money has not, after being paid, been embezzled by the tax-collector.

The Governors of the Provinces are to superintend the execution of the Regulation, and to make from time to time "personal inspection" in the different towns and villages, to see that it is properly acted upon.

This Regulation, if thoroughly carried into effect, will (there can be no doubt) produce a salutary improvement upon the present system of collection; indeed, we have some reason to think that it has already done so, particularly in regard to the proportion of the tax which is borne by the wealthier classes.

As regards, therefore, the distribution of the tax among individual taxpayers, we think it desirable that the effect of this Regulation should be fairly tried; and that for the present any more ambitious attempt in the same direction might not improbably result in failure.

The Regulation, however, should be amended so as to provide for the fullest publicity being given to the contents of the registers, by requiring that they shall be kept in some easily accessible place, and open, under proper restrictions, to all comers, and, perhaps, that they should be affixed to the doors of the churches, mosques, or other public buildings.

It is most important also that each taxpayer should be able to make himself acquainted as soon as possible with the amount of payment for which he is held liable.

It would, moreover, be desirable that each proprietor should be called upon to make an exact statement in writing of the amount of property held by him, and of its value, subject to penalties for making an incorrect return.

Provision should also be made for receipts being given in every case by the collector to the taxpayers, so that the latter may not be left without the means of legal defence in case of a claim being made upon them for money which they have already paid, and also as affording some degree of additional security against the embezzlement by the collector of any part of the money which he receives.

When the distribution of this impost has been made equitable, and the mode of its assessment and collection improved, it might be found expedient and possible in cases of emergency to raise the revenue of any special year by the temporary imposition of an additional amount of "verghi" in proportion to the amount ordinarily borne by each town or district. This would be no great hardship, for since the contributions were fixed some fifteen years since, the value of money has fallen so considerably that it has, in fact, amounted to a large reduction in the burden of this impost. As the produce of the soil is already heavily taxed, it might be expedient to exempt property paying "dîmes" from any additional impost.

2. *Rachat Militaire (Tax for Exemption from Military Service).*

The "rachat militaire," of which the proceeds amounted to 59,609,119 piastres, or about 476,000*l.*, is a personal tax levied at the same time and in the same manner as the "verghi," and paid by the non-Mussulman portion of the population, being Ottoman subjects, in consideration of their exemption from military service.

A census was taken for the purposes of this tax about seven years ago, and the amount fixed (as in the case of the "verghi") which each province, district, and town or village, was to pay: the basis of the assessment being a charge of 5,000 piastres for the exemption of each soldier from service, and the liability of every 180 persons to return one soldier.

The tax is distributed in the same way as the "verghi" among the individuals of each community; and the same complaints are made, and on the same grounds, with regard to its inequitable pressure both on individuals and on communities.

We should hope that as a matter of course the arrangements which have already been made, and those which it is intended to make, for the improved assessment and collection of the "verghi," will be applicable also to the "Rachat Militaire," to the present incidence of which the objections, though inferior in degree, are of a precisely similar kind.

3. *Dîmes (Tithes).*

Under the name of "dîme" ("uchur") one-tenth of all the agricultural produce of the country is claimed by the State, which draws from this source a revenue equal to about one-fourth of its whole income; the amount which was received on this account for the year ending March 1860 being, as will be seen, 355,564,374 piastres, or about 2,844,000*l.*

This tax has hitherto been levied in kind. It has not been taken directly by officers

of the Government, but sold to "farmers," who, in conjunction with the local authorities of the different villages, assess the tax upon the cultivators, and collect it on their own account.

The evils of this mode of collection, whether considered with reference to the interests of the revenue or to those of the taxpayer, are, as is generally admitted, extremely great. The "dîmes" of a province are sold to some wholesale contractor by the Government, and the contractor resells them, as it were by retail, for the different districts comprised in the province. A similar retail process is adopted by this second purchaser, so that the "dîme" of a particular village is usually the subject of three or four (sometimes, it is stated, of five or six) different sales before it is finally levied. Thus, between the amount which is due to the Government by the cultivator, and the amount which it receives from the "farmer," there is a margin sufficient to cover several distinct commercial profits. The "dîmes" are also frequently bought by needy speculators, who, in the event of there being loss owing to bad harvests, are unable to meet their engagements, and the debt is added to the amount of arrears. It is evident, therefore, that to the Government the system must be a most expensive one. To the taxpayer, on the other hand, it is injurious in the extreme. In the first place the "farmer" of the tax, having undertaken its collection as a commercial speculation, proceeds, by every means in his power, to enhance its value at the expense of the poorer class of cultivators, whose relative position renders it very difficult, if not impossible, for them to obtain redress for unjust exactions. Of the expedients resorted to by the "farmer" with this object, the most usual appears to be that of collusion with the assessors of the tax (the authorities of the village) to overestimate the amount of produce for which the cultivator is liable, the assessors, of course, participating in the illicit gain. In the next place, the tax being taken in kind, and the cultivator prohibited from selling, or even housing, his produce until it has been assessed to the "dîme," it constantly happens that he is prevented, for a considerable time, or even altogether, from disposing of it; or if bad weather sets in, the grain is subjected to injury from exposure, and the whole loss from this cause is made by the tax-farmers to fall on the cultivator; the delay being occasioned, either by the length of time which is consumed in effecting the different sales of the tax, or (more commonly) by the inability or unwillingness of the "farmer" to make an earlier assessment, or by both these causes combined. Instances even occur (as we are assured), not unfrequently, in which whole crops are allowed to perish uselessly, because they have not been rated to the tithe. In many cases the peasant, being unable to obtain money for his present necessities by the sale of his produce, is driven into the hands of usurers, always to his detriment, and frequently to his ruin. In this manner, also, another convenient instrument of exaction is supplied to the "farmer," of which he frequently avails himself, viz., that of compelling the peasant to pay a sum of money for the early assessment and collection of his tithe.

The necessity of providing some remedy for this state of things has, however, now been recognized by the Porte; and with this view a Regulation has been issued, which is under trial this year in European Turkey, and which it is intended, as we are informed, to apply next year to the rest of the Empire. This Regulation is in substance as follows:—

For the next five years each village is to pay a fixed annual sum to the Government, calculated upon the average annual value of the produce which has been received from it as "dîme" during the last five years.

In each village a "Conseil de Dîmes" is to be formed in the spring of each year, presided over in Turkish villages by the Imaum, and in Christian villages by the Curé, and composed of the Muktar (or Mayor) and "notables" and "elders" elected by the inhabitants.

In villages part Mussulman and part Christian, the Conseil is to be composed of the Imaum, Curé, and "notables" and "elders," elected by the Mussulman and Christian inhabitants respectively.

The "Conseil de Dîmes" is to keep a register of the quantity and quality of the different crops produced in the village. It is to take an account from each cultivator, as each kind of produce is harvested in its season, of the sum for which, by approximative calculation, he may appear liable in respect of such produce; and to receive from the producer the amount in five monthly instalments.

When all the produce of the village is harvested, the Council is to send the register in which the amounts so paid on account are to be registered, to the Council of the district, which is to examine it, and in conference with the Village Council, to decide upon the average price of each kind of produce according to the purchases and sales in each village, and the proportion of the whole fixed sum payable by the village for which each cultivator, looking to the amount and market price of his produce, is liable.

The sums paid on account are then to be deducted from the sums charged in the

Register against those who have paid them, and the balance is the sum which remains to be paid by the later instalments.

The Mukhtars of the villages are to collect the amount, and deposit it in the local Treasury, taking receipts from the Cashier, and receiving for this service a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

In villages where the "dîme" cannot be paid in money, the Conseil is to take it in kind, and to sell it on account of the village with a view to the payment of the fixed amount of "dîme."

If in any year the fixed amount payable by any village is less than the actual value of its "dîme," the surplus is to be retained by the village, unless the difference is more than one-half the amount of the "dîme," when 10 per cent. extra is to be paid.

If, on the other hand, the actual value of the "dîme" is as much as half less than the fixed amount payable by the village, only the actual value of the "dîme" is to be paid; but the arrears are to be made up in the succeeding years at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the fixed amount.

If in any year the crops of a village entirely fail, then on the report of the Governor of the province verifying this loss, it is to be entirely exempt from the tax for that year.

The Council of each district is to make, by means of the registers, a report respecting the produce of each village and its "dîme" account, and to send the report to the Council of the province, which in its turn is to make a similar report, and send it with those of the District Councils to the Central Government.

The estimation which has been made by Government Inspectors for the purposes of this arrangement of the average value of the "dîme" paid during the last five years by each village was obviously a matter of some difficulty, since no official record has been kept of such payments; and the difficulty has been met by taking as the representative of that value, the average annual price given for the "dîme" of each village by the last purchaser of the tax, a course which, inasmuch as the last purchaser must be supposed to have made a profit on the transaction, obviously allows of a certain margin of direct gain to the cultivator. At the end of five years a new assessment will, we presume, be made of the fixed amount payable by each village, so as to give an opportunity for redressing the balance in any case of inequitable apportionment of the tax, either on the first establishment of the new system, or in reference to the changes which may have since occurred in the relative productiveness of the different localities. The registers to be kept by the Conseil des Dîmes of the quantity and quality of the different crops produced in each village will materially facilitate any such assessment.

There can be little doubt that this measure is a very great improvement on the mode of collection which it has replaced. So far, indeed, as the revenue is concerned, it appears that the direct gain to the Treasury will not be so large as might have been hoped for. We are informed by the Finance Minister that, judging from the amount at which the villages have been assessed, the sum received by the Treasury on account of the "dîme" from European Turkey in the present financial year will not exceed by more than 15,000,000 piastres, or about 120,000*l.*, that which was received from it during the past year, when the tax was "farmed;" an increase (supposing that one-half of the total amount of "dîme" is paid by that part of the Empire) of little more than 8 per cent.

To the taxpayer, however, there can be no question but that the change will be productive of immense advantage. He will no longer be the victim of commercial speculation and consequent extortion. He will be able to sell his produce at the time most convenient to him, and will, therefore, cease to be under the necessity either of bribing the "farmer," or of borrowing money at ruinous rates; while the provisions in the new regulation for systematic registration and account will tend to a more equitable distribution of the tax as between the rich and influential members of the community and the peasantry whom they rule.

As regards the actual working of the measure considered as affecting the agricultural classes, the balance of evidence is decidedly in its favour. The replies which we have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and others on this subject are almost unanimous in treating it as a most important and salutary reform. Mr. Consul Suter (of Varna) reports that in his district the change is looked upon as a great boon by the whole population, and states that whereas about 10,000,000 piastres per annum were formerly borrowed of usurers by the peasant farmers in that part of the country, during the present year no more than 4,000,000 piastres have been borrowed by them, the cause of this improvement being that they are now able to sell their produce at their own time. From one or two places there are complaints that too high an amount of payment has been fixed, as the last five years include a period of war prices, and also of the severity with which the new assessment has been enforced. Others aver that the poorer cultivators suffer because,

being unable to wait for a market, they are compelled to sell their produce immediately after harvest, when prices are at the very lowest, whereas the amount of the "dîme" is calculated at an average price. But these complaints, even supposing them to be genuine, are exceptional, and do not seriously diminish the general prospect of success.

It has been objected to the substitution of payments in money for those in kind, that in many parts of the interior the cultivators have no market for their produce and can only obtain currency at a ruinous loss. It will be observed that the regulation contains a provision which is intended to meet this difficulty; the opinions, however, which we have collected with regard to it do not lead us to suppose that the objection is one of serious importance. Whatever may be its force, it applies equally to the "verghi," which is paid in currency. It may be hoped also that some effort will soon be made to supply the great want of the country—that of roads, the absence of which, in many districts, alone denies a market to agricultural industry. It seems at least inadvisable to legislate on the supposition that a defect so serious and anomalous will never be remedied.

On the whole then, the new measure, while producing a direct increase of revenue of no inconsiderable amount, will (as may fairly be anticipated) contribute in a very important degree to increase it indirectly by the relief which it will give to the cultivators of the soil, and the consequent stimulus to production and trade throughout the Empire.

Comparing it again with other measures of direct collection which naturally suggest themselves, we are inclined to prefer that which has actually been adopted.

Direct collection by Government officers unconnected with the inhabitants of the district would have been more expensive as well as less acceptable to the population; while in requiring a fixed amount from each village and making the village itself responsible for its assessment and collection there is this obvious advantage, that the blame of an inequitable distribution or unjust collection falls not on the Government, but on the village itself, which elects its own assessors and collectors.

Again, collection in kind rather than in money would, if made directly by the Government, in the first place be injurious to it on account of the extreme uncertainty which it would involve as to the probable amount of the receipts from the tax; and in the next place, would imply the assumption by the Government of commercial functions, which it can never conveniently or profitably exercise.

While, however, approving in substance of the new regulation we think it susceptible of improvement in detail.

It is most important, for instance, that provision should be made for the free access of each cultivator to the register, so that he may ascertain at once the sum for which he is held liable and the state of his account, and may also assure himself that he is duly credited with all that he has paid.

For this purpose it seems desirable, as in the case of the "verghi," that the register should be kept in some easily accessible place, and open under proper regulation to general inspection: and perhaps also that lists taken from the register should be affixed to the churches, mosques, and other public buildings, a practice which (as we understand) would be in accordance with popular usage in this country.

In this regulation, as in that respecting the "verghi," no provision is made for compelling the Muktar to give receipts to the taxpayers. This is a serious defect which should be promptly remedied.

4. *Sheep.*

The tax on sheep produced in the year ending 1859–60 was 88,291,531 piastres, or about 706,000*l.*, and was estimated at somewhat less for the following year. It was formerly a mere tithe in kind, one sheep in every ten being taken by the State; at present it is a money payment supposed to represent about a-tenth of the estimated annual value; its average rate is for some districts about 4 piastres, and for others about 2 piastres per sheep.

This tax is "farmed," and so far as that portion of it is concerned which is levied on nomad flocks, such as those of Albania and a great part of Anatolia, the absence of any effectual means of checking or controlling direct collection may render it difficult for the Government to dispense with the services of the "farmer," unless arrangements were entered into with the Chiefs of tribes under which the tax could be compounded for by a fixed annual payment. In cultivated districts, where the flocks are more settled, there seems no reason why direct collection, desirable on so many accounts both for the interests of the revenue and the taxpayer, should not be adopted.

5. *Pigs.*

The duty on pigs, which yielded 10,452,473 piastres, or about 83,000*l.*, was before the year 1858, 3 piastres per head; in that year it was raised to 10 piastres per head, a rate

which seems, in some important districts at least, to have seriously diminished the supply. Mr. Consul Blunt of Philippopolis, and Mr. Consul Wilkinson of Salonica, both speak in strong terms of the injurious effect of this tax, at its present rate, on the Christian peasantry throughout European Turkey. Mr. Blunt remarks that, "if the peasant treats himself to meat twenty times a-year, on fifteen of those occasions he uses pork; and that the pig is an economical and necessary member in the peasant's cottage." He states that in consequence of the high rate of duty the number of pigs in Roumelia has, it is calculated, decreased by 60 per cent.; that at Philippopolis there were 30,000 pigs in 1857, and not more than 13,000 in 1860; and at Nisch in 1857 about 40,000 pigs, whereas at present there are not more than 17,000.

It is obvious that if this be the state of the case, any small gain which the Treasury may derive from the increased duty is purchased at an extravagant cost of suffering to the agricultural population; and that a reduction of this tax, while involving a direct fiscal loss of very trifling amount, would not only be a great relief to the peasants of Roumelia, but would indirectly benefit the public revenue by improving their condition.

The taxation of pigs should commence, not as at present at the age of three months, but at a later period. The disproportion of the tax to the value at so early an age is (it is stated) such as frequently to cause the destruction of the animal to escape payment of the tax.

There seems no reason why the vicious system of "farming," which is in the course of abolition with respect to other branches of the revenue, should not be abolished also in the case of this tax.

6. Customs.

The Customs duties produced in 1859-60 a gross amount of 173,179,783 piastres, or about 1,385,000*l*. They have hitherto been farmed at all the ports of the Empire except Constantinople, and certain ports in the Sea of Marmora, the Dardanelles, and on the Asiatic coasts of the Black Sea, which are dependent upon the Custom-house of the capital, and even at these places until quite recently, as regards some classes of goods. They consist of—

1. A duty of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* on importation, and a duty of 2 per cent. *ad valorem* on actual sale of the imported goods; in all, an import duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

2. An export duty of 12 per cent. *ad valorem*: viz., 9 per cent. on goods when entering the port of export from any other port or place in Turkey; and 3 per cent. when shipped for exportation, whether to a port of Turkey or of any foreign country.

The duty of 9 per cent. is, it appears, also charged on goods in the interior when removed from one town or district to another. The Consul at Diarbekir states that internal traffic between towns even one mile apart pays this high Customs duty.

3. A duty of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* on goods in transit.

In pursuance of Treaties which have recently been concluded with certain foreign Powers, these duties are to be altered, and are in future to be as follows:—

1. An import duty of 8 per cent. *ad valorem*, taken once for all at the place and time of importation.

2. An export duty of 8 per cent. *ad valorem* for the first year, diminishing each succeeding year by 1 per cent. until it becomes a duty of 1 per cent., at which point it is to remain.

3. A transit duty of 2 per cent. (instead of the present 3 per cent.), which after eight years is to be reduced to 1 per cent.*

Tobacco and salt are exempted from these stipulations, and in return the export duty on the former is to be abolished at once.

A Table, drawn up, so far as regards foreign countries other than England, from official Returns which were obtained at our request from the different foreign Embassies at Constantinople, shows the total exports and imports of Turkey in the year 1859 to and from the countries which it enumerates, and which include nearly all those with which Turkey carries on any important trade. The gross amount of revenue which at the rates of duty now in force ought to have been received upon this amount of traffic was found to be 2,069,200*l*. The actual gross amount of revenue derived from Customs duties in Turkey for the year 1859 was 1,410,580*l*. Supposing, therefore, that the Table referred to comprised the whole of the trade which is subject to Customs duties in Turkey, the produce of those duties was in the year 1859 less by 658,620*l*. than it would have been under a perfectly efficient system of collection. The deficiency, however, must, in

* The conversion of these *ad valorem* rates into specific duties on goods is confided to Tariff Commissions, which include the Representatives of the different foreign nations concerned.

reality, have been considerably greater, since there must be added to the sum above given as that which ought to have been received in Customs duties upon the traffic comprised in the Table, the amount of duty payable on the trade of those countries trading with Turkey which are not comprised in it: the amount payable on the traffic from port to port of Turkey (which is also subject to the export duty of 12 per cent.), the duty of 9 per cent. on a portion of the trade of the interior, and the produce of the duties on goods in transit.

This important deficiency in the receipts from Customs duties may, we think, be attributed chiefly to the following causes:—

1. The system of “farming,” which is generally admitted to be ruinous to the Exchequer.

2. The ease with which the duty of 2 per cent. payable on actual sale is evaded.

3. The absence of precautions to prevent goods imported for consumption from being passed as goods in transit, and so escaping at the lower duty.

4. Defects in the regulations under which the duties are collected.

1 and 2. The two former of these causes will now be removed.

Direct collection has been established at Constantinople, and is in the course of being established throughout the country. Great as may be the losses of the Government occasioned by dishonest collectors, we cannot believe that they will be sufficient to counterbalance those which it suffers from the monopoly prices and frequent defalcations of the “farmers” of Customs duties. The system of “farming” is inherently and necessarily vicious; the defects of direct collection depend upon those of the human character, which are susceptible of cure.

3. The adoption of measures to ensure that goods intended for consumption in the country shall not pay duty as goods in transit is urgently required; the more so, as under the new Treaties the difference between the import and the transit duties will be considerably greater than it has hitherto been. At present there appears to be no check in this respect, except the mere declaration of the importing merchant. Either the duties ought to be taken at the port of arrival on all goods whether for transit or sale in the country, and a drawback given on them at the place of re-export, or bond should be given by the importing merchant for their being sent out of the country by way of some specified port or place within a certain time.

4. Defects in the regulations under which the duties are collected.

In this respect an important change will be made under the new Treaties. Attempts at fraud or smuggling, on the part of the importers or exporters, are now punishable only by the exaction of double duty. In future they will be punishable by confiscation of the goods.

Under the present system, when neighbouring Custom-houses are let to different farmers, a competition arises between them, and as each endeavours to attract goods to the port which he farms, merchants are induced to pay the duties at the port at which they can obtain the greatest abatement from the just amount of duty. This loss of duty apparently falls on the farmer of the revenue, but as he of course calculates upon those reductions in the price which he pays to the Government, the loss in reality falls upon the public Treasury. These private arrangements are detrimental to fair trade between merchants; and it not unfrequently happens that the revenue farmer himself acts as a merchant, and by passing his own goods without duty, while he exacts the full amount of duty from others, is enabled to appropriate to himself the monopoly of the trade in certain articles. These evils will cease when the system of direct collection has been put in force.

We have carefully examined the system of collection at the chief Custom-house at Constantinople, and witnessed the mode of passing the goods, and of keeping the accounts.

In regard to the mode of passing the goods, some changes appear to be required.

An examiner opens the bales of goods, and proclaims their nature and weight or quantity to a clerk who is at hand, and who enters these particulars in a book. Both these functionaries are very ill paid, and there is little to prevent the examiners from making a false statement as to the goods at the instance of the merchant's agent, or, if he makes a true one, the clerk from making a false entry. We think that these officers should in future be better paid, so as to ensure their being taken from a higher class of society.

The manner of keeping the accounts at the Custom-house will be noticed in that part of our Report which relates to the subject of accounts generally.

Two important checks upon fraud on the part of importers, which are usual in other countries, are dispensed with at the Turkish Custom-house, viz., the production of the ship's manifest to the Custom officers, and the delivery at the Custom-house by the importer of a detailed statement of the nature, quantity, and quality of the goods imported. The first is valuable for the purpose of ensuring that the whole cargo of the

vessel is brought to the Custom-house, and that no part of it has been illegally landed: the second, which is the more important, chiefly as affording a certain degree of security against misrepresentation by the examining and registering officers of the quantity or quality of the goods.

In cases where the value placed by importers upon goods liable to duty appears to the authorities at the Custom-house to be too low, they should have the power of taking possession of the goods on paying the owner a price from 10 to 20 per cent. above the value at which they were declared.

The Custom-houses at the outports should be subjected to periodical inspection by a superior officer selected for the purpose from the chief office at the capital, and it would be found a useful check to transfer the officials from time to time from one port to another.

Means should also be taken for making as public as possible the rates under the new tariff when they have been fixed, and tables of the rates at which foreign coins are accepted should be conspicuously placed at each Custom-house as a check upon the abuses to which the deficiency of the Turkish currency gives rise.

The changes which we have thus suggested, together with those to which we have referred as having been already adopted, will, we trust, have the effect of greatly diminishing the difference between the amount legally payable and the amount actually paid in Customs duties.

It remains to consider what will be the effect on the revenue of the changes about to be effected by the new Treaties.

The immediate reduction of the export duties by 4 per cent. (from 12 to 8) is compensated by an increase of only 3 per cent. on the import duties. Any loss, however, which may be thus occasioned, is likely (we think) to be at least supplied by the substitution of an import duty, taken once for all, for the former more complicated arrangement, under which the 2 per cent. chargeable on actual sale was frequently evaded. So frequent, indeed, does the evasion seem to have been, that the new 8 per cent. import duty might fairly be considered to have been substituted for a duty, not of 5, but of 3 per cent.

In the first year or two, therefore, we do not anticipate any loss to the revenue from the new arrangement, though it includes the reduction from 3 to 2 per cent. of the transit duty.

The reduction of the export duties at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum, until at the end of eight years only a nominal duty is levied, must considerably affect the revenue obtained from Customs; but the relief and impulse which it cannot fail to give to agriculture and commerce, especially to the former, upon which a very large proportion of the burden of taxation is at present thrown, may be expected to result in a general increase in the revenue derived from other taxes, more particularly in that which is the chief fiscal resource of the country, the "dîme." In this general improvement the receipts from Customs duties will, of course, participate, so that the falling off, even in this respect, will not be so great as might at first sight be supposed.

On the whole, then, we think that under the head of Customs duties no serious decrease of receipts need be anticipated, since the effect of the improvements in the mode of collection which have already been adopted, and of those which we trust will be adopted in accordance with the suggestions which we have made, may be set against the diminution which might be expected to result from the gradual abolition, considered by itself, of the export duties. That the changes which have been made in regard to these duties must tend greatly to improve the general condition of the public treasury, there can be little doubt.

The non-existence in Turkish ports of bonded warehouses in which goods may be stored for re-exportation without payment of duty, or, if intended for home consumption, without payment of duty until they are taken out of the warehouse, is a serious disadvantage to the commerce, and therefore to the revenue, of Turkey. The erection of such warehouses would increase the public revenue directly, by increasing the receipts from Customs duties, since the facilities which it would give to the merchant for selling his goods for consumption in the country at the time which the state of the market might render most convenient and most profitable, would diminish the price, and therefore increase the quantity of imported goods; and it would have a similar effect indirectly, since the increase of shipping and commerce which it would attract to them would materially add to the wealth and importance of the ports of Turkey, and especially of Constantinople, singularly adapted as it is, by natural advantages, for the purposes of a great commercial entrepôt.

7. Duty on Tobacco.

The excise duty on tobacco produced 25,727,718 piastres, or about 205,000*l.*

This tax is farmed, and is levied on the *ad valorem* principle, as follows:—

Value per Oke.			Duty.
Below $7\frac{1}{2}$ piastres .	..	..	$1\frac{1}{2}$ piastres.
$7\frac{1}{2}$ to 15 "	..	..	3 "
Above 15 "	..	..	6 "

The duty is taken by the farmer of the tax (as stated in the Government regulation) "on the purchase of the tobacco by tradesmen or merchants for the purpose of being sold in shops or warehouses."

With respect to this tax, the remark is obvious, that in a country containing a population of 25,000,000 at the least, and in which most men, and a great many women, smoke incessantly, 205,000*l.* is a very small sum to derive from an article which in England, France, and other European countries yields millions to the Treasury, and which is universally recognized as one of the very fittest subjects for taxation.

It must be remembered, however, that in Turkey there is no possible mode of drawing any large revenue from the home consumption of this article, but by means of a monopoly or an internal duty, since the tobacco consumed in Turkey is chiefly of native growth. Moreover, a monopoly, which has proved so costly and difficult of enforcement in European countries, would probably fail altogether in Turkey from the want of efficient executive arrangements; while an Excise duty levied directly upon the producer, and not confined (as is actually the case) to the purchase of the article by the dealer, would be objectionable not only on account of the difficulty of collection, but of the serious check which it would give to production.

It would, of course, be possible to increase the present excise duties on tobacco, which (as will be observed) are fixed at a rate far below that which has been adopted in countries where tobacco is a principal fiscal resource, and which amounts to several hundreds per cent. on the value. But it is not likely that a rate of duty at all approaching to that amount would be successful in Turkey against illicit trading, unless under a far more efficient system of collection than that which is at present in force. The production of tobacco in the Empire has generally been estimated at not less than 30,000,000 okes, and as the revenue derived from it is less than 26,000,000 piastres, an average duty is shown of less than 1 piastre per oke. As the present Tariff ranges from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 piastres per oke, it is evident that there must be a large evasion of the tax.

There can, however, be no reason why the mode of collection should not be revised with a view to render it more efficient, or why its efficiency should not be so far increased as to admit of a very large addition to the present impost on tobacco, and to the revenue derived from it. For this purpose it would be absolutely necessary to abolish the "farming" system, and to substitute for it direct collection by the officers of the Government. The Assessor and Collector should be different persons, so that the one might act as a check upon the proceedings of the other; and special Inspectors should be appointed—selected for their honesty, and paid so as to preserve it—to watch over the collection of the tax. There could be no more useful employment for the "Conseil du Trésor," or other financial advisers of the Porte, than the preparation of a measure of this nature, and the careful observation of its results.

In the meantime, and even under the present imperfect regulations for collection, the rates of duty might (as it appears to us) be to some extent increased, not only without any countervailing decrease of consumption, but without any serious diminution of revenue from fraudulent evasion of the tax. In particular there seems no reason why the scale should abruptly close at the comparatively low price of 15 piastres per oke, thus subjecting the tobaccos of a higher value, which vary in price up to a maximum of about 100 piastres the oke, to the same rate of duty.

Revision is also required in the Tariff as it now exists with regard to the classes in which the several qualities of tobacco are placed. For instance, that called "taireh," which now is worth 60 piastres at the place of growth, remains in the lowest class, and pays only the smallest rate of duty.

We propose that the following scale of duties should be substituted for those at present in force:—

Value per Oke.			Duty.	Value per Oke.			Duty.
Below $7\frac{1}{2}$ piastres .	..	..	2 piastres.	25 to 40 piastres	..	..	15 piastres.
$7\frac{1}{2}$ to 15 "	..	..	4 "	40 piastres and upwards	..	..	25 "
15 to 25 "	..	..	10 "				

When the machinery of collection has been reconstructed and invigorated, a further

increase of duty might be tried. The only objection to such a course would consist in the degree of probability which might exist of its serious unpopularity, and which may render it necessary that the measures taken for increasing the duty should be gradual and tentative in their character.

8. Duty on Fish.

This tax produced 8,487,253 piastres, or about 67,000*l.* The duty on fish is 20 per cent. *ad valorem*; but, in addition to this, there is among the "droits divers" of some localities a duty of 50 per cent. on "taglians," or fishing implements. Mr. Consul Finn states that in some places "the (Revenue) Officers take two fishes out of three." Such an impost must act as a serious discouragement to this branch of industry, and might probably be reduced with direct advantage to the interests even of the revenue. In Chio the duty is stated to be 25 per cent. At Bagdad the river fisheries pay 50 per cent. It seems desirable that these duties should be revised, with a view not only to their reduction, but to the establishment of uniform rates for all parts of the empire.

9. Contracts.

This is a duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the registration of leases of houses, such registration being by law compulsory. It produces the small sum of 2,350,924 piastres, or about 18,000*l.*, which might certainly be greatly increased if a more effective regulation were adopted for enforcing the law.

At present the person making a contract is bound to register it at the police-office, but this process is frequently dispensed with, especially by influential proprietors who are not afraid of a too rigorous inquiry into their proceedings. An important improvement would be to deprive of legal validity all contracts which were not duly registered as required by law.

10. Stamp Duties.

The amount received on account of stamps was 3,113,620 piastres, or about 25,000*l.*; a very small sum to derive from a source which in England and in France yields annually several millions sterling. Very few documents are subject to stamp duty in Turkey. Money bonds, which pay a tax of 1 per mille; title-deeds, conveyances, leases, and other papers connected with the transfer of real property, which pay a uniform duty of 5 piastres each, are, as we are informed, the only classes of documents to which this duty is applied. Moreover, unstamped documents belonging to these classes are, it appears, in practice at least, treated as legally valid by the judicial authorities; and no sufficient provision is made for supplying the different districts with stamped paper.

We believe that the attention of the Turkish Government has been recently directed to this subject, and it is most desirable that steps should be taken without delay to extend the incidence and increase the productiveness of this tax. Receipts, checks upon bankers, bills of exchange, promissory notes, and mercantile paper in general, should be subjected to a stamp duty proportionate, so far as is consistent with convenience of collection, to the value for which they are drawn; and the duty now existing on title-deeds and other papers relating to the transfer or tenancy of real property which, as we have stated, is only 5 piastres, should be considerably increased according to an *ad valorem* scale.

The legal invalidity of unstamped documents of a class to which stamps are applicable by law should be assured, as far as is possible, by a new and stringent enactment, and by strict injunctions to the authorities throughout the Empire.

It is also very important that, besides stamped paper, adhesive stamps should be issued and made readily procurable by the public both in the capital and in the provinces. The additional facility which would thus be given for a compliance with the law would be such as would, in all probability, make a very important difference in favour of the Treasury as regards the receipts from this branch of revenue.

11. Excise on Alcoholic Liquors.

In the year ending March 1860 the receipts from this source were 4,690,874 piastres, or about 37,000*l.*, the duty having been at that time 10 per cent. on the value of all such liquors.* For the following year it was resolved to raise the duty to 20 per cent., but the result was not an increase but a diminution of revenue so great that it became necessary to return to the original rate of 10 per cent., which is that now in force.

* The duty is levied at the place where the liquor is manufactured, and is charged on the alcohol which is taken in for that purpose; a certain fixed proportion being assumed as that which the alcohol bears to the manufactured liquor.

It seems probable that this falling off in the revenue was caused by the advantage given to liquors imported from abroad as against those manufactured in the country, by the additional duty placed upon the latter, while the duty on the former remained at its Treaty rate of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. It would seem that spirituous liquors ought to have been among the articles exempted from the fetters imposed upon the fiscal policy of Turkey by her Commercial Treaties. But however unrestricted she might be in regard to the taxation of this article, the revenue drawn from it in Turkey could not (as it would appear) be otherwise than trifling when compared with that derived from the same source in other countries. In Turkey (so far as we can learn) the bulk of the population, the inhabitants of the interior, are not consumers of spirituous liquors. It is only in the few large and populous towns, which are, for the most part, sea-ports, that there is any appreciable demand for them. It seems scarcely just, however, that the Turkish Government should be precluded by engagements with foreign Powers from availing itself of any change for the worse which may take place in the habits of the people, and, whether such change should take place or not, from using to the best advantage this deservedly favourite instrument of taxation.

12. *Tapou (Registration).*

The source of revenue bearing this title is a registration fee of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the transfer of a certain description of landed property which lapses to the State in default of direct heirs of the owner, and 5 per cent. on the grant of titles to the holder of such property.

It produced, in the year 1859-60, 6,924,908 piastres, or about 55,000*l.*, but credit is taken for more than double that sum in the following year, on the ground (we believe) that more stringent measures had been adopted for the collection of the tax.

We are informed that the aggregate amount of property held under "tapou" titles is very large, and it seems deserving of consideration whether it would not be desirable to allow of the conversion of this property into freehold, on condition of a certain yearly contribution or a sum once for all payable by the holder to the State. It seems probable that the revenue would greatly profit by such an arrangement, and it is certain that a freehold tenure of property is more conducive to the general prosperity than a precarious tenure such as that under which these lands are held.

13. *Miscellaneous Duties.*

The "droits divers," which produced 101,657,297 piastres, or about 813,000*l.*, are excessively numerous. Among them is a duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *on every article of native manufacture sold in shops*, a duty on the shops themselves, on workmen, on the sale of cattle and horses, on goods sold by auction, on fairs, on pastures, on sheep-folds, on weighing articles by a Government officer, on mills, on licenses to sell shot, on agricultural produce and other goods entering a town; and a duty called "derbend," which is a toll levied on merchandize other than foreign, at frequent intervals on the mountain-pass or other substitute for a road along which the goods are conveyed. Many more might be enumerated; but the taxes imposed under this head are different for different localities, so that an article or branch of trade subject to a particular tax in one place would not be subject to it in another.

The information which we have received leads us to believe that these duties are, as might be expected, extremely burdensome; their multiplicity is indeed in itself sufficient to give them this character. Even if they were collected directly by officers of the Government, the incessant interference of the tax-gatherer which they imply would be difficult to support; as it is, the objections to them are aggravated by their surrender to "farmers," whose gains are proportionate to the success of their exactions.

We trust that the Turkish Government will without delay direct its attention to these duties, with a view to their careful and complete revision. The abolition of any among them of which the produce, either singly or in the aggregate, is considerable, might be undesirable in the present critical condition of the National Exchequer; but it is obvious that there must be some of them of which the amount received by the Treasury is so small as not to be worth the expense of collection combined with the annoyance which it causes to the people, and others of which the amount, though in itself not inconsiderable, is so detrimental to production and trade as ultimately and on the whole to be injurious to the fiscal interests of the country. To the latter class would probably be found to belong the "derbend," or toll on merchandise mentioned above, and of which great complaints are made; the monopoly of dyeing and ironing manufactured goods, which is stated to be the cause of serious injury to them; and the duties on agricultural produce entering a town,

forming as they do a serious addition to the share, already disproportionate, borne by the produce of the land in the taxation of the country.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all goods whatever of native manufacture sold in shops seems to be an impost of the worst kind, and one of which the abolition, as soon as the financial condition of the country would bear the immediate loss, could not fail so to benefit commerce as to produce a large ultimate increase of the general revenue.

It may be hoped also that it will be found possible, when these duties are revised and their number abridged, to collect them directly with advantage to the revenue. The injury to the taxpayer caused by the farming of these taxes is proportionate to their number.

A portion of the proceeds of these duties was formerly retained in each of the districts where they are paid, for the purpose of defraying its municipal expenses; at present the whole amount is paid into the public Exchequer, on the understanding that the Government will itself provide funds for any necessary municipal expenditure. The consequence, inevitable perhaps in the present instance, owing to the pecuniary difficulties of the Government, has been that towns and districts have been obliged to forego altogether many of the local improvements and arrangements necessary for their welfare.

It is, we think, very important that a fund should be specially set apart for the local requirements of each district, and desirable also that such a fund should be supplied by contributions from the district itself. And with this view we would suggest that when (as we trust will at no distant time be the case) the Government shall find itself in a position to dispense with a considerable portion of these miscellaneous taxes, some one simple and uniform tax, such as a house-tax, should be imposed in their stead, and its proceeds devoted entirely to local purposes.

14. *Post Office.*

The sum received from this source was 6,267,736 piastres, or about 50,000*l.* The expense of administration appears in the Accounts of the Minister of Finance under the head of "Entretien des relais et frais d'administration des Postes," as 9,220,695 piastres, or about 73,000*l.* It appears, however, that these "relais" are used by the Government not only for postal but for other purposes, and that in reality there is some small gain to the State on account of this service.

Scarcely any approach to an efficient postal system has hitherto been made by the Turkish Government. The communication with foreign countries and between the ports of Turkey is in great part carried on by the steamers of independent foreign companies, of which any one who pleases may avail himself. Each of these Companies has its own separate post office, and neither from these offices nor from those of the Government are any letters delivered except upon application on the part of those to whom they are addressed.

As regards the interior of the country all carrying of letters except by the Government is illegal, but so long as the state of the roads compels a high rate of postage it is not likely that the prohibition will be much regarded.

Constantinople and its environs are, as regards their internal correspondence, entirely without any regular postal arrangements.

A well-organised postal service, monopolized by the Government, has been looked upon by most States as an advantage to the public interests generally, as well as a convenient means of adding to the national revenue; and we would recommend this subject to the early and careful attention of the Turkish Government. In particular, there seems no reason why the great advantages, which are so well understood by other States, of collection by means of postage stamps should not be extended to this country. Even on the supposition, which it is to be hoped has no prospect of realization, that no improvement were to take place in the means of internal communication, some considerable direct gain to the Treasury must result from the establishment of an efficient system of postage, while its effect upon the National Exchequer would probably be felt still more beneficially in the increase of general revenue which would be consequent on the commercial and other advantages of such a measure.

15. *The Government Printing Office.*

Under this head appears a sum of 916,286 piastres (about 7,000*l.*), being the proceeds of the sale of Government journals, printed laws or regulations, and other papers issued by the Government.

16. *Miscellaneous and Real Property belonging to the State.*

This resource, which produced a sum of 3,457,318 piastres (about 27,000*l.*), consists of the rent of various buildings, such as houses or mills, belonging to the Government.

Much of this property might probably be sold with great advantage to the State, especially if the exclusion of foreigners from proprietary rights in Turkey were, as it ought to be, abolished. Where the property is retained by the Government, the leases, which, we believe, are now annual, should be for longer periods, and care should be taken in every case thoroughly to advertise the property for which a tenant is required.

17. *Fisheries.*

The sum received from this source, 2,003,097 piastres, or about 16,000*l.*, consists of the rent derived from the fisheries belonging to the State, which are, we believe, for the most part leased annually to private persons. It can scarcely be supposed that this sum represents anything like the largest amount which might easily be derived from this branch of revenue. If lists were annually made and published as widely as possible of the fisheries to be leased and of the terms on which they would be let, so as to throw them fairly open to public competition, considerable improvement might be expected in the receipts on this account. Probably, also, if leases were granted for longer periods, a better price would be given for them in the market, and more care be taken by their holders to preserve and foster the fisheries in which they were interested.

18. *Forests.*

The forests of Turkey, which are, we believe, almost exclusively the property of the Government, produce 660,972 piastres, or no more than 5,000*l.* per annum.

In Greece, which is in extent scarcely one-fifth of European Turkey, and which, though some parts of it produce timber of considerable value, is renowned in about an equal degree for the sterility of its soil and the inefficiency of its administration, the forests are estimated to yield annually to the Government 270,000 francs, or 10,800*l.*

We trust that the attention of the Turkish Government, which was so far roused some two years since upon this subject as to cause the preparation of a law with regard to it which has never been carried into effect, may now be directed in earnest to the utilisation of the national forests, which are admitted on all hands to be of great value. What is required seems to be simply that the Porte should lay aside all jealousy of private enterprise, whether national or foreign, and turn its forests to the best advantage by throwing them open to the freest competition of individuals and companies, taking care of course in each case that a fair per-centage on the profits of the undertaking is secured for the public revenue.

It may be hoped that no long time will elapse before the value of the forests of Turkey is further enhanced by the all-important construction of roads, without which, indeed, it must be admitted that they can never be expected to yield to the State an amount at all proportionate to their real value.

19. *Farms belonging to the State.*

These produced a sum of 7,810,745 piastres, or about 62,000*l.* These farms are held under annual leases, and the amount which they yield is (as we are assured) far below their real value. It is probable that the best mode of turning them to advantage would be to sell them, to which there may be in many cases objections of a political nature. The next best mode would be to let them under long leases, so as to give the cultivator some interest in the soil, and to induce him to husband instead of waste its resources. In this case the importance of allowing foreigners to hold property in freehold or on long leases becomes again evident. It is by foreign capital that the land would be made most valuable both to the Government which would receive a higher price for the property, and to the community which would profit by the development of its productive power.

20. *Salt Works.*

The sale of salt, the produce of Government works, yielded 10,692,175 piastres, or about 85,000*l.* Hitherto these works have been "farmed," and the proceeds sold by the farmer to the public at a price fixed by the Government. The Porte has now (as we believe) taken the monopoly into its own hands, and there is little doubt that the revenue will profit by the change.

As salt is excepted in the new Treaties from the stipulations respecting Customs duties and prohibitions, it may be inferred that the Turkish Government has had some intention of making use of the monopoly of this article for the purpose of increasing the revenue. All the salt now consumed in Turkey is (as we are informed) of native production, and the measure which has been in contemplation is, we presume, to add greatly to

the monopoly price now taken by the Government, and to prohibit, or to place a prohibitive duty upon the importation of the article. It does not appear, however, that there is any present intention of adopting this course, which is one to which much valid objection may be taken. It is evident from the smallness of the sum now received by the Government on this account, that in order to obtain anything like a considerable revenue from salt, it would be necessary to increase the monopoly price to an extent which would scarcely fail to create general dissatisfaction. Unless in case of the strongest fiscal necessity, a novel impost, enhancing very seriously the cost of one of the prime necessities of life, does not appear desirable.

21. *Mines.*

The mines of Greece produce annually about 20,000*l.* (500,000 francs) to the State ; those of Turkey only about 9,000*l.* : facts which are conclusive as to the use which has hitherto been made of the rich mineral resources at the disposal of the Turkish Government. A new code of regulations respecting mines has, however, recently been issued, evidently with the object of turning the mines of the country to a more profitable account.

These regulations provide for the issue of State licenses (or concessions) for the working of mines under certain restrictions and conditions, and under the superintendence of a central "Council of Mines," which is to appoint inspectors to see that the restrictions are observed and the conditions fulfilled. Any person may search for a mine on his own property, but no one on the property of another person or of the State without a regular authority from the Government, and no person may work a mine without a direct license or commission from the State, which is to receive a rent proportionate to the richness of the mine. These concessions can only be granted to Turkish subjects ; but subjects of foreign States may be shareholders in any concessionary Company. No concession is to be granted unless it be proved by documentary evidence to the satisfaction of the Government that the undertaking is likely to be profitable, that the capital is sufficient, and that the mine will be worked in the "manner which offers the most facilities." No concessionary can increase the capital which he employs upon the mine without the authority of the Government ; and if in the working of the mine a metal different to that for which the concession was granted is discovered, the working of the mine must cease until a new concession is obtained. The regulations go further still, and actually subject smelting operations throughout the Empire to very similar restrictions.

Confronted with such an array of difficulties and delays, it is not likely that capital will venture freely upon the field of Turkish mining enterprise. As regards the working of mines on property belonging to the Government, some of these regulations are, no doubt, necessary or expedient with a view to the due protection of such property ; but others are useless and mischievous. In particular the implied refusal to allow foreigners or foreign Companies to become concessionaries must seriously detract from the prospect of profit to be drawn from these mines.

With regard to mines on private property, the system adopted in England and other countries of leaving such mines entirely at the disposal of the owner of the property, and free from any fiscal interference or impost whatever, is that which appears most conducive to the prosperity of a nation, and therefore in the long run to its fiscal interests. Supposing, however, that the Turkish Government is not prepared to adopt such a system, but will continue to treat the mines of the whole country as the property of the Government, the course which it ought to take seems to be to allow any person whatever, or any Company however composed, to search for or work the mines upon private property without any restriction or condition whatever but the consent of the owner of the property, each such mine being subjected to an annual contribution to the State proportionate to its value.

22. *Sales of Real Property.*

The sale of real property belonging to the State produced the sum of 505,000 piastres, or about 4,000*l.* The question of the sale of State property as a fiscal expedient deserves (as we have already remarked), and seems likely to receive, the attention of the Government.

23. *Fixed Revenues.*

These, which amount to 46,787,000 piastres, or about 374,000*l.*, are the fixed sums annually paid by the States which are tributary to the Porte.

24 and 25. *Revenues of the Arsenal and of the Tidjaret.*

Under these heads are sums of 14,839,888 piastres (or about 118,000*l.*) and 777,062 piastres (or about 6,000*l.*) respectively, which include the tolls of the bridge at Galata, the light-house dues, and a portion of the dues on workmen and trading corporations. These are the only Departments of the Government enjoying the mischievous privilege of special revenues.

If the suggestions which we have made on this subject in another portion of our Report are attended to, the whole of the public revenues, without exception, will in future be paid to the Receiver-General, and carried to the general account.

EXPENDITURE.

The following is an abstract of the Budget of Expenditure for the Turkish year 1275 (1859-60):—

No.	Description.	Piastres.	Sterling converted at 125 piastres per £1.
1	Foreign debt, interest, and sinking fund	111,377,890	891,023
2	Home debt, ditto, ditto	85,850,009	686,800
3	Pilgrimage to Mecca, and expenses connected with the Sacred Places	48,031,553	384,252
4	Civil List	156,734,871	1,253,878
5	Superannuations and charities	26,913,008	215,304
6	Grand Council and Tanzimat	14,920,646	119,365
7	Ministry of War	425,152,500	3,401,220
8	" " Artillery	18,191,270	145,530
9	" " Marine	98,850,205	790,801
10	" " Tribunals	10,655,500	85,244
11	" " Evcaff	19,042,666	152,341
12	" " Interior	190,541,749	1,524,333
13	" " Foreign Affairs	25,676,586	205,412
14	" " Commerce and Public Works	9,742,504	77,940
15	" " Public Instruction	2,802,478	22,419
16	" " Police	13,796,664	110,373
17	" " Finance	127,793,579	1,022,348
		1,386,073,678	11,088,583
18	Loss incurred on the retiring of metallic currency, charged upon 1276	32,667,000	261,336

1 and 2. *Interest of Debt.*

The foreign and home debts being, as regards the chief portion of them, subject to diminution by means of sinking funds, the charge for interest which in 1859-60 was about 1,578,000*l.* per annum, should decrease year by year, and such is actually the case as respects the foreign debt; but the exigencies of the Government are such that considerable sums of money have of late been raised in the capital at high rates of interest, so that the charge for the home debt has increased considerably, and is likely still further to increase.

A reduction in this charge is to be sought for in the measures adverted to in this Report for the regulation of the budget of receipts and expenditure, by which a surplus for the gradual redemption of the debt could be secured, and in those for the re-establishment of financial credit, by means of which money could be raised at a more moderate rate of interest than that which is now demanded for temporary loans obtained at the pressure of the moment.

3. *Pilgrimage to Mecca.*

The yearly pilgrimage which is sent to Mecca, and the expenses which are incurred at the Holy Places—Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem—including repairs of mosques, khans, fountains, &c., and the salaries of officials, cost the large sum of 48,000,000 piastres, or about 380,000*l.*

Considering that the financial administration of Turkey has been found to be so lax at head-quarters, it is easy to believe that this large expenditure in a remote province of the Empire must be subject to great abuses. Such we are told is the case, and there is no doubt that by a rigorous investigation into the manner in which the money has been spent, followed by a reorganization of the administration of the funds, a large saving in the outlay could be made, and the balance could be applied more efficaciously than at present to the maintenance of the institutions to which the money is devoted.

4. Civil List.

The Civil List of the Sultan, amounting to somewhat more than 1,200,000*l.* (which sum, however, large as it is, does not include the whole of the allowance for the Imperial establishment), is an item of expenditure with which there is considerable difficulty in dealing; for whatever sum is put down in the Budget, it rests entirely upon the will of the Sultan to restrain his expenses within the limit prescribed, or, on the contrary, to incur liabilities far beyond the amount which has been assigned to the Civil List. It is well known, that during the last few years a considerable portion of the financial deficits have arisen from the large amount of palace debts which have been thrown upon the public Treasury; but great hopes are now entertained, not only that the amount stated in the Budget will not be exceeded, but that His Majesty will continue the reforms which are said to have been begun in the Imperial establishments, so as to admit of a considerable reduction of the more than liberal amount now charged in the Budget. The successful reform of the Turkish financial system will be conditional on an amount of moral courage, on the part of all those who are in public authority, sufficient at least to induce them to submit to the restrictions and effect the economies necessary for the purposes of such a reform, and we believe the Sultan is fully sensible that this condition is not likely to be fulfilled unless the example is set by the Head of the Government.

5. Superannuations and Charities.

Superannuations and charities cost the State about 215,000*l.* a-year. Having regard to the number of officials at the capital, and the large salaries of the Officers of State and of the Governors of Provinces, this may not be a disproportionate amount, but we have reason to suppose that the grant of pensions depends too much upon the amount of influence the recipient may possess, and that a large portion is monopolized by the wealthy and powerful. We believe that it would be more in accordance with justice and with the good of the public service, if a regulated scale of pensions were introduced, to which deserving servants of the Government could look with confidence as a means of support when, after a life devoted to the public service, age or infirmity compels them to retire.

If the larger salaries were to be reduced, the burden of large pensions upon this fund should be diminished in the same proportion.

6. Grand Council and Tanzimat.

The charge for the Grand Council and Tanzimat in the year 1275 was about 120,000*l.* a-year, but in the year 1276 the salary of the President of the Tanzimat was reduced from 8,000*l.* to 6,800*l.*, and that of the President of the Grand Council from 7,000*l.* to 5,800*l.*, and now by the consolidation of the two Departments some further saving will be effected in the salaries.

This Council bears some resemblance to the Privy Council in England, and acts as a Court of Reference and Appeal, but its utility is disputed by many, and we believe that at all events a still larger reduction might be made in the number of its highly-paid members without detriment to its efficiency.

7 and 8. Ministry of War and Artillery.

The charge for the War and Artillery Departments, including the Army, and all other military expenses, amounted for the year 1275 to somewhat more than 3,500,000*l.*, whilst the estimate for 1276 exceeds 4,000,000*l.*

In examining the detail of the Budgets, one cannot but be struck with the large cost of direction and superintendence, and with the high rate of remuneration which is paid to the higher classes of officials.

In England the cost of central direction and superintendence of the Military Departments is about 200,000*l.* a-year upon an expenditure of 14,600,000*l.*, or about $\frac{1}{73}$ rd part of the total expenditure for military purposes; whereas, we find that in Turkey the cost is about 166,800*l.* upon an expenditure of 4,000,000*l.*, which places the proportion as high as $\frac{1}{24}$ th part. This disproportion is easily accounted for when we observe that the Seraskier (Minister of War) receives a salary of about 16,000*l.* per annum; the Director-General of Artillery about 5,600*l.*; Conseiller-Général about 3,600*l.*; Conseiller of Artillery about 3,000*l.*; Paymaster-General about 3,500*l.*; Members of Supreme Council of War about 26,000*l.*; Members of Army Supplies about 5,700*l.*; Directors of Correspondence about 1,400*l.*; and others in a similar proportion.

On the other hand, we find that the clerks and subordinates are treated in a manner

exactly the opposite. The bulk of these (531 out of 584) receive salaries at rates ranging, at the present course of exchange in the capital, from 10s. to 5*l.* per month, or 6*l.* to 60*l.* per annum.

Where the scale of remuneration is so extremely low, it may be supposed that many of the clerks, in the irregular attendance which they may choose to give, do not come to work but to learn business and to have the opportunity of pressing their claims for more lucrative posts, or merely to avoid being sent into the provinces; and it is to be feared that in some instances the opportunity of gaining extra official remuneration is not without its attractions. There is no scale of salaries, under which the clerks may look forward to an improved position according to their services, and it is only through interest that a higher rate of pay is obtained, so that the chief inducements for the display of zeal and intelligence are wanting.

The consequence is, that a staff of clerks is employed much larger than necessary, and amongst whom many are of little or no use as regards the work to be done, and the business of the Department is inefficiently performed.

We strongly recommend that not only in this office but in all the Departments of the Government there should be a complete reorganization of the numbers and salaries of the officials; that regularity of attendance during a fixed portion of the day should be insisted upon; that a larger number of clerks should not be employed than a fair distribution of work requires; that the exorbitant salaries of the higher officials should be reduced; that the body of the working clerks should receive remuneration adequate to the work they should be required to perform; and that the establishment of clerks should be divided into classes with annual rises and systematic promotion according to fixed rules.

The system of supplying the Civil Servants of the Crown with rations is also one which has lately been very properly discontinued. It is an expensive mode of supplying officials with what they either do not want, or with what they could purchase with greater advantage for themselves. The lower classes of officials are to receive an equivalent in money, and we believe that the cost of the articles converted into salary will not only be more acceptable to the clerks, but the Government will also be saved the expense and trouble of procuring and distributing the rations.

When we look to the army, for the management of which this Department is constituted, we find to a considerable extent the same defects.

The Commanders-in-chief of the several corps d'armée receive each of them in pay and rations 7,000*l.* or 8,000*l.* a-year, while the Conseil of each corps receive from 5,000*l.* to 7,000*l.* a-year, salaries far beyond what the finances of Turkey are able to bear.

The soldiers, on the other hand, receive but small pay, and are badly clothed and fed. By a readjustment of these charges greater efficiency would be obtained and even a saving upon the total expenses might be effected. The payment of the troops is conducted under the superintendence of the Colonel by a commission composed of all the commissioned officers of each regiment. Every evening the muster-roll is called, and the name of each man present is noted in a book kept for that purpose, and of which a copy is sent monthly to the War Department, bearing the seal of all the commissioned officers. The rations are charged according to the number of men shown in this book, and they are purchased by the commission of officers, the prices of each article being certified by the Kaimakam of the district and his Council in a formal declaration forwarded monthly to the War Department. The amount of pay drawn is based on the muster-roll or book referred to above. Another account of the number of men in hospital is sent up monthly certified by the doctor, the apothecary, and the hospital chief.

The correctness of the accounts is taken for granted by the War Department as they bear the seals of so many officers; but responsibility divided between so many is often less efficacious against error or fraud than when responsibility is more specially fixed upon individuals, and as regards the Turkish army it is commonly asserted, with what degree of truth we are unable to say, that the number of men charged and paid for on the muster-book is considerably larger than the actual strength of the regiments would warrant. Where all the officers are concerned in the payment they are all interested in bringing forward the largest claim against the Government, and there remains no independent body to check their proceedings.

We believe that it would be much more conducive to the correctness of the accounts and to economy, if Paymasters, to take entire charge of all regimental payments, directly responsible to the War Department, were to be appointed and their accounts were examined at head-quarters. In this case certificates and vouchers in support of the Paymaster's accounts, signed by officers, who would then be without personal interest in the money transactions of the regiment, would be a much greater check and security than their seals affixed to an account in which they are themselves concerned.

9. Ministry of Marine.

The observations which have been made with regard to the War Department apply with equal force to the Ministry of Marine.

In Turkey the total naval expenditure does not exceed 800,000*l.*, out of which the Admiralty or Department of Control costs 40,000*l.*, or one-twentieth of the total expenditure; whereas we find that in England the proportion is not more than one seventy-fourth.

The salary of the Capudan Pasha, which was in the Turkish year 1275 about 10,000*l.* a-year, not being considered sufficient, was in the following year increased to about 13,000*l.* a-year, besides other sources of emolument.

The lower ranks of the officers and the sailors, on the other hand, receive miserable pay. The pay of a captain is about 40*l.* a-year, of a lieutenant 30*l.*, of a sub-lieutenant 15*l.* a-year, the sailors receive less than 3*l.* a-year. Rations and clothing are, however, supplied in addition to the rates of pay given above, and upon these may be said to rest the chief dependence of the officers and men, for their pay is generally many months in arrear, whereas the rations are dealt out with regularity. As the officers are entitled to several rations according to their rank, they are enabled by these means also to support their families.

With so small an expenditure as 800,000*l.* for the navy of the Turkish empire, it could hardly be expected that its fleet could be in a very satisfactory condition; but when the manner in which this sum is spent is considered, it becomes a matter of surprise that the state of the navy is not worse than it appears to be. Here, as well as in the other offices of the Government, a complete reorganization of the Naval Department and of the rates of remuneration is required, not only in justice to the individuals, but as the best means of raising the efficiency of the service.

10. Tribunals.

The charge of 85,000*l.* for tribunals comprises the cost of the Central Administration at the capital, and includes the salaries of the Sheik-ul-Islam and the Ulemas, but most of the Judges and other officers of the Law Courts in the provinces receive remuneration in the shape of fees payable by the litigants, and it is asserted that in some instances (at Acre for instance) the office of Judge has been farmed out to the highest bidder.

We cannot speak too strongly against a system under which the administrators of justice are paid, not by fixed salaries, but by means of fees varying in productiveness according to the amount of litigation which can be attracted to their Courts, and if these fail to satisfy the wants of these officers they are exposed to the temptations which are held out to them on every side to accept extra-official remuneration which cannot fail to bias their judgments.

Liberal salaries should be paid to the Judges at the capital and in the provinces, and they should hold their appointments during good behaviour, and not be removable at the mere pleasure of the Government.

The additional expense which this would throw upon the country might in some measure be met by a well-regulated system of fees, which should not be payable as now to the officials, but to the public chest, and these would be most safely collected by requiring that all the proceedings of the Court should be founded upon documents impressed with a stamp equal to the amount of the fee to be paid.

11. Evcaff Department.

The charge for the Evcaff Department (Department for property devoted to sacred and charitable purposes) is about 150,000*l.*, which with the special revenues which belong to it, amounting to about 110,000*l.*, shows a total expenditure of 260,000*l.* a-year. The purposes to which these funds are devoted are so numerous, and often so minute, including the building, repairs, and charge of mosques, schools, fountains, khans, &c., that it is only by a vigorous and honest administration of its affairs in the capital and in the provinces that a proper application of the money can be secured.

The revenues of the Department, consisting partly of fixed contributions payable by a certain class of property, have fallen with the value of money, and the State has to bear the deficiency; but we believe that with a better supervision this charge might be reduced, and the objects of the fund better carried out than, according to report, is at present the case.

12. *Ministry of the Interior.*

The Ministry of the Interior expends about 1,500,000*l.* a-year, which includes, however, some charges which more properly belong to the Civil List, such as presents made by the Sultan 50,000*l.*, and decorations 36,000*l.*, and extraordinaries are put down at 100,000*l.* The Grand Vizier's salary, which was 13,500*l.*, is still 11,000*l.*, and the Governors of provinces receive salaries varying from 4,000*l.* to 7,000*l.* The charge for coals, wood, &c., is 8,000*l.* a-year, and other items seem equally high. We believe that very large reductions might be made in many of these charges without detriment to the service.

On the other hand, the provincial police should be reorganized and better paid, so as to take away the inducement to increase their emoluments by exactions, which in some districts are so much complained of that the inhabitants have been heard to assert that they prefer the bandits to the police. An improved system has, however, been introduced in some districts with the best effect.

13. *Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

The expenditure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was, for the Turkish year 1275, about 205,000*l.*, while the estimate for 1276 is only 130,000*l.*, showing a reduction on this head alone of 75,000*l.* How far the accounts, when made up, will show that these savings are real, we are unable to say; but we look upon these large reductions in the Estimates of this Department as some evidence that the same measures of retrenchment could be dealt out to the other Departments.

14. *Ministry of Commerce and Public Works.*

The expenditure of the Ministry of Commerce and Public Works amounted in 1275 to 78,000*l.*, and in the estimate for the following year a reduction is made of 20,000*l.*, which, however, does not fall upon the higher salaries or expenses of management, but is thrown entirely upon the head of repairs of streets, roads, bridges, &c.

This service does not appear to us to be the one upon which a reduction of expenditure should be effected; indeed, looking at the lamentable state of these public works, and the impediments which trade and commerce have to contend with, owing to the want of proper means of transit and communication, we consider that the expenditure under this head, in place of being diminished, should be largely increased.

15. *Ministry of Public Instruction.*

About 20,000*l.* a-year is spent out of the Government Chest upon public instruction; the Minister receiving one-fifth of the total sum. There are, however, a vast number of schools throughout the Empire supported by the mosques and by vacoof endowments, though the instruction in these is not carried beyond the art of reading and writing the Turkish language.

16. *Ministry of Police.*

The Ministry of Police costs about 110,000*l.* a-year, and does not call for special observation.

17. *Ministry of Finance.*

The charge for the Ministry of Finance for the Turkish year 1275 is more than 1,000,000*l.*, and the estimate for 1276 about 850,000*l.*, but this sum includes many charges which have little connection with the Department itself, viz., 50,000*l.* for meat supplied to the Palace which should appear in the Civil List charges; more than 100,000*l.* for rations supplied to the Army, Navy, and other Departments; above 100,000*l.* for repairs of forts, Government buildings, &c.; 40,000*l.* for the chief Custom-houses; 70,000*l.* for the Post Office and relays of horses; 40,000*l.* for works at the mouth of the Danube; 60,000*l.* for Circassian emigrants; 16,000*l.* for coals and wood; and other charges of a similar nature.

With regard to the more special expenditure of the Department we have to observe that the same defects appear to exist in the Finance Ministry that are found in the other Departments. The officers of direction and superintendence are much more numerous and more highly paid than necessary, while the working clerks receive a very low rate of salary.

The Office seems to be split up into a large number of small divisions, which entail an unnecessary number of chiefs, and we believe that if the business were placed, as we

about to suggest, under the charge of three principal officers, and the minor divisions were done away with, a large saving in salaries might be effected, while the clerks might be more amply remunerated, and the work better performed.

18. *Miscellaneous.*

The Budget of the year 1276 includes a sum of about 260,000*l.*, payable as an indemnity to the Union Financière for a breach of engagement with respect to the withdrawal of the *caimé*, which affords an instance of the folly of attempting to direct the course of exchange by means of mere artificial arrangements.

On a general review of the whole of the expenditure of Turkey, it appears to us that there is great room for reduction of charges which could be combined with increased efficiency, but that, on the other hand, there are several services, especially those relating to Public Works, Roads, &c., to Courts of Justice, and to the Country Police, upon which a larger outlay is urgently required so soon as the state of the finances will admit of it. In any estimate, therefore, of the future demands upon the public exchequer, it will be prudent to look to an increase rather than a diminution in the rate of expenditure.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

As regards the central administration and general control of the finances of this country, important changes are imperatively required. So great, indeed, is the importance of those changes that, unless they are effected, all other measures for the improvement of its financial condition would, as it appears to us, be of little value.

There is in Turkey no Minister of Finance, except in a very restricted sense of the term. There is a functionary bearing that title, who is a Member of the Council of Ministers, and assists at their deliberations. But his duties are little more than executive. He is charged with the receipt and custody of such part of the public revenue as is sent to the central Treasury; exercises a general superintendence over the collection of the taxes, and executes the decisions of the Government in regard to the public debt and to fiscal subjects generally. But a Minister specially responsible for the financial condition of the State, and to whom, therefore, the preparation of budgets, the balance of income and expenditure, and generally all subjects relating to taxation, and to the cost of administering the Government, are matters of peculiar concern, has no existence in this country. The executive duties of fiscal administration are (as we have said) performed by the Finance Minister; the deliberative by the Council of Ministers. The Ministers in Council agree upon the sum to be allotted to each of them for the purposes of his Department* during the current year, and a credit extending to that amount is opened in favour of each Department by the Minister of Finance, and the money issued to it in monthly instalments as required. These amounts are expended under the sole control of the different Ministers, and no account of the expenditure is rendered beyond a concise annual abstract, which is transmitted to the Finance Minister. Moreover, the limitation of the expenditure of each Department to the sum agreed upon and allotted to it is no more than nominal; since each Minister has the power of issuing "*serghis*," or obligations, for which there is no fixed date of payment, or, in other words, of contracting debts, without, so far as we can learn, any restriction whatever, and of which, indeed, no regular account is given,—the accounts which are sent annually to the Finance Minister by each Department showing only the amount of actual money payments which have been made.

It is evident that, so long as this system is maintained, a well-founded confidence in the state of the national finances is an impossibility. Where no one is specially responsible for the condition of the public purse, that condition is not likely to be very satisfactory. Where any member of the Government has power, by incurring liabilities without limit, to increase the debts of the State, there can be no security at any time for its solvency.

A reform in regard to this branch of the Administration is, in our opinion, urgently needed; and the following are the principal measures and regulations which, as it appears to us, such a reform should comprise:—

The functions of the Minister of Finance should be defined by a special Imperial Edict.

The Minister of Finance should be responsible for the financial condition of the empire. He should propose, from time to time, the fiscal measures which he thinks necessary,

* Two Departments of the Government, viz., the Arsenal and the "*Tidjaret*," are endowed with special revenues, out of which a part of their expenditure is defrayed.

including those which relate to the public debt. He should receive from each Department, towards the close of each financial year, an estimate of the amount which will be required for the next. He should prepare the Annual Budget of the Empire. He should communicate the financial measures which he proposes, as well as the Budget which he has prepared, and the Departmental Estimates upon which it is based, to the "Conseil du Trésor," which should examine and report upon them. He should then lay them, with the Report of the "Conseil du Trésor," before the Council of Ministers, who should submit them, when approved, to the Sultan.

Immediately under the Minister of Finance there should be placed three officers: a Receiver-General, a Paymaster-General, and an Accountant-General.* The Receiver-General should, under the Minister, be responsible for the measures adopted for the collection of the revenue, and for its regular transmission to the Central or Provincial Treasury.

All the public revenues, of whatever kind (including those now specially assigned and paid to certain Departments of the Government), should in future be paid directly to the Receiver-General, or to his representatives in the provinces. The Receiver-General should render to the Finance Minister a daily account of his receipts during the day.

The Paymaster-General should be the only person authorized to disburse public money.

No payment, of whatever kind, should be made by any Department of the Government except by an order on the Paymaster-General.

All payments in the provinces on the part of the Government should be made by an order of the Paymaster-General on the Provincial chest.

Before the commencement of every month, each Department of the Government should submit to the Minister of Finance a statement of the amount which will be required during that month; and the Minister of Finance, after examining the statement, should authorize the Paymaster-General to meet the demands of the Department up to such an amount as he deems sufficient.

No Department should be allowed to exceed the sum which has been allotted to it in the Budget of the current year, with the following exceptions:—

Any Department which, from unforeseen circumstances, should find itself under the necessity of exceeding the sum so allotted to it, may make an application for the purpose to the Minister of Finance, who, after taking the opinion of the "Conseil du Trésor" upon the application, should lay it before the Council of Ministers, who, on approval, should submit it to the Sultan.

No orders for payment drawn by any Departments upon the Paymaster-General should be payable at a longer date than thirty days from the date of issue.

Each Department should send daily, or at short intervals, to the Paymaster-General a precise and detailed statement of the orders which it has given upon him.

The Paymaster-General should send to the Minister of Finance a daily Return of the payments which he has made during the day.

The Accountant-General should have charge of the general and detailed accounts of the Department, with the materials for which he should be supplied daily by the Receiver-General and the Paymaster-General.

He should keep the accounts relating to the debt, and assist the Finance Minister in the preparation of the Budget.

The accounts of the Finance Minister, as prepared by the Accountant-General, as well as those of each Department of the Government, should be submitted to a Board of Audit (Cour des Comptes), which should be constituted for the purpose, and which, after examining each account should append a report to it, and should submit the accounts and reports to the Council of Ministers.

No Government bond or obligation of whatever kind should be issued, except by the Minister of Finance.

Every proposal for an increase of the public debt, whether floating or permanent, internal or foreign, should be submitted by the Finance Minister for the approval of the Council of Ministers, after having taken the opinion of the "Conseil du Trésor" with regard to it.

In case it should be found necessary to issue Treasury obligations to meet the expenditure of the current year, in anticipation of in-coming revenue, the Minister of Finance should prepare a precise statement of the obligations which he proposes to issue, and of

* Under the present system Departments exist in the Ministry of Finance for receipts and payments respectively; but the duties of Receiver-General and Paymaster-General, as commonly understood, are for the most part discharged by the Minister of Finance himself.

the causes which render them necessary, and should submit such statement for the approval of the Council of Ministers.

The liquidation of these obligations should be secured as a first charge upon the public revenue, and they should be paid off, with the interest upon them, at a date not exceeding one year from the day of their issue, but at a shorter date if possible.

The annual Budget, together with such part of the Report of the "Conseil du Trésor" as may be necessary to justify or explain it, should be published, as soon as possible after it has been finally decided upon, in one or more of the principal Turkish and one or more of the principal foreign metropolitan journals.

The audited accounts of the several Departments, with the auditors' reports upon them, should also be printed and sold to the public at a moderate price.

These arrangements, thoroughly effected and rigorously maintained, would probably be sufficient to prevent any future disorganisation of the finances arising from the absence of individual responsibility, central control, and systematic regulation. The publication of the annual Budgets and accounts would supply the place, however imperfectly, yet so far as the nature of the case seems to admit, of the check which is imposed by popular institutions on financial mal-administration; while the Minister of Finance would be guided and assisted in all questions of difficulty by a consultative body, and his proceedings subject to the general supervision and veto, if necessary, of the Ministerial Council.

It would be necessary, however, that the "Conseil du Trésor," which is to advise the Minister of Finance; should cease to be what it may almost be said to be at present, a merely nominal institution. This Council was brought together in November 1859, but reconstituted in its present shape in June 1860 (when the difficulties of the Government had become alarmingly serious) with considerable solemnity, and with the understanding, expressed publicly to the nation and to foreign Powers, that it was to take an active and most important part in the administration of affairs, as a deliberative body specially charged with the reform of the fiscal system, and with the future control and regulation of the finances of the empire. It consisted of six Ottoman subjects (of whom four were Turks) and three European members, viz., one recommended by the French Government, one by the British, and one by the Austrian Government; the Secretary being also a European, recommended by the French Government. The Council has from that time to this been without any official definition of its functions. Its advice is but little resorted to, and when sought seldom acted upon; and though it has rendered important service in reference to the preparation of regular Budgets, as well as in other respects, no opportunity has yet been given to it of preparing any general scheme of reform. At the present moment the resignation or removal of its members seems to threaten it with extinction. It now consists, we believe, of only five members, three of whom are Ottoman subjects and two Europeans; nor can it be expected that those who remain will be long content to occupy a position which, if the present state of things continues, will be neither useful to the public nor creditable to themselves. It will be essential to the success of the measures which we have suggested that this Council should be re-constructed, and that its reality and efficiency should be assured. A further infusion of the European element would, as experience has shown, be highly conducive to its successful action. The number of Europeans should, we think, be fully equal to that of the Ottoman and Rayah members of the Council taken together, so that the former may not be out-voted by the latter. Thus reorganized and honestly upheld in its proper functions by the Government, there is no doubt that the Council would command the services of able and experienced men, and might perform the part assigned to it with the utmost advantage to the State.

ACCOUNTS.

The next point that calls for attention is the mode of accounting for the public revenue and expenditure.

That the accounts of a large Empire should be kept upon a proper system is a matter of the utmost importance; for, without this, regularity and correctness in the pecuniary transactions of the country cannot be maintained, there can be no security that the whole of the revenue reaches the Government chest, nor that the payments which are charged have been properly expended; and by the neglect of proper records, one of the best means of detecting fraud or embezzlement is lost.

Amongst other important advantages afforded by a clear and comprehensive system of accounts, is the facility it offers for acquiring a knowledge of the general condition of the country, and the assistance it gives in the study of questions connected with the sources

of revenue, in regulating and controlling the receipts, in comparing the cost of the various heads of expenditure with the results produced by such expenditure, and generally in encouraging and facilitating financial inquiries.

The opportunity that has been afforded us of inspecting the mode of conducting business in the public offices at Constantinople has led us to the conclusion that in the Ottoman Empire public accounts, as the term is ordinarily understood, can, except in one or two instances, scarcely be said to exist, and that consequently the knowledge upon financial matters is extremely limited.

Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that in a time of difficulty the finances of the country get into confusion, and that there should be a wide difference of opinion as to the remedies that should be applied.

There are, it must be admitted, many separate accounts and statements which are kept with the greatest neatness, and no doubt with accuracy, but no means are taken for classifying the items or bringing the results into one general view.

Accounts of the Finance Ministry.

The most important Department as regards accounts is that of the Minister of Finance. We have already pointed out what we consider to be the main defects in the constitution of this office, and have suggested that under the Finance Minister there should be three separate branches, having charge respectively of the receipts, the payments, and the accounts, with a responsible officer at the head of each who would relieve the Finance Minister of all the detail work of the Department with which his time is now taken up, and enable him to devote his attention to important measures of finance.

In order to explain more clearly the changes we would propose in the detail of the business, it will be well to describe the system which is at present pursued.

After the taxes and duties have been assessed in the manner shown in that portion of our Report which deals with the several sources of revenue, they are collected by officers subject to but little control, and the proceeds in the capital are paid into the Central Treasury chest, and those received in the Provinces are paid into the Provincial chests, which exist at the seat of government of each Province, under the charge of a Treasurer, controlled by the Governor and a Council.

The money received in the Provinces is to a considerable extent expended on the spot for provincial or other purposes, under directions of the Finance Minister, and the balance is remitted from time to time to the Treasury in Constantinople, the instructions directing that not more than 10,000 piastres shall remain in the hands of the Local Treasurer.

When payments are made out of the Provincial chests, the vouchers for such payments are transmitted to the Treasury as so much cash, which is brought to account as revenue, and the Department for which the payment was made is charged with the amount as an issue. A large portion of the revenue received in the Provinces is thus dealt with.

A monthly account of receipts and disbursements is sent from each Province to the Finance Minister, signed by the Treasurer, and certified by the Governor and the Members of the Council.

No vouchers accompany this account, and the examination it undergoes does not extend beyond comparing the balance brought forward with that shown on the previous account, and seeing that the remittances charged have duly reached the Treasury.

According to information which has been furnished to us from several quarters, and upon which we think considerable reliance may be placed, we are led to believe that with regard to these provincial accounts serious abuses exist.

We are told that in many cases the taxpayer is in ignorance as to the amount he is legally bound to pay; that, as it is not the practice to give written discharges for the sums paid, the payers are liable to be, and frequently are, called upon to pay the same amount of tax twice, and even three times over; that the members of the Council who certify the monthly accounts have little opportunity of knowing whether they are correct or not, but sign because it is the rule to do so, and because the Governor has done so; and that it is not unusual for the Treasurer to lend out at interest, for his own advantage, a portion of the balances in his hands, accounting for the deficiency by entering it in the account as arrears of taxes which have not been recovered.

How far these allegations are correct it would be difficult to say, but it seems evident that there is not sufficient check upon the Governor and Treasurer to prevent the existence of these abuses, and that in cases of fraud the chance of detection is very remote.

In order to diminish these opportunities for fraud, we would suggest the following modifications of the present system.

A list, containing a detailed statement, showing the taxes payable by each individual, should be prepared in each village, town, or district, and certified copies should be exposed in the most public places, such as at the entrance of mosques, churches, markets, &c., so that each taxpayer may know what he has to pay, and be able to see that he has not been overcharged in comparison with the other members of the community. A copy should also be transmitted to the Governor of the Province, and a second direct to the Finance Minister.

The collector should have a book of numbered receipts and counterfoils, upon each of which should be entered the particulars of the amount of tax payable, and for each sum paid he should deliver a corresponding receipt.

When the several communities remit the taxes received to the Provincial chests, the remittance should be accompanied by two lists, one showing the particulars of the sums received, the other those of the claims still outstanding.

The Governor should see that the sums returned as received are marked off in the list of taxes payable, which had previously been sent to him, and those which remain open should be compared with the list of claims outstanding.

The counterfoils of the receipts which have been delivered should also accompany the remittance, and be compared with the list of receipts.

Care should be taken that the list of taxes payable should be prepared and published by an authority distinct from and independent of the officer who has charge of the collection of them.

With these precautions, any questions which may arise between the taxpayers and the collectors, or between the latter and the Government, may readily be investigated and controlled.

When the remittance has been received at the Provincial Treasury, and the lists and counterfoils examined and marked off, the amount should be debited in a cash-book, arranged in columns for each class of tax, and on the creditor side should be entered the remittances to the Treasury and the local disbursements, supported by proper vouchers. The sums paid on account or in full should not be merely marked off on the back of the order, as is done at present, without any written acknowledgment of the money from the claimant, but separate receipts should in each case be given by the recipient.

After the end of each month a copy of the cash-book for that period, showing the balance at the commencement, the receipts and payments during the month, and the balance at the close of it, should be transmitted to the Finance Minister, signed by the Treasurer, and supported by the sub-accounts of the several communities, and by certificates from the Governor and certain members of the Provincial Council, declaring that the accounts have been duly examined and found correct. The signature of the accounts by the whole of the Council appears to divide the responsibility too much, and it would seem desirable that two or three of the Council should be selected as auditors, and be held responsible for the correctness of the accounts.

When the Provincial accounts have reached the Treasury at Constantinople, they should be carefully examined and compared with the sub-accounts; and although it may not be necessary in all instances to subject the sub-accounts to a detailed examination, it will be useful to do so occasionally, especially where there is reason to doubt their correctness.

We would also propose that a staff of Finance Inspectors should be maintained under the direction of the Finance Minister, who should constantly be employed in the Provinces, inspecting and reporting upon the accounts of the Treasurers, and the mode of assessing and collecting the taxes in the country. They should, as far as possible, investigate matters in dispute and complaints, which, in minor matters, they should have the power of deciding upon themselves, while more important questions should be referred by them, with a report, to the Finance Minister for his decision.

We need scarcely observe how necessary it would be that the officers selected for this important duty should be men of intelligence and of undoubted probity and integrity; and it would also be desirable that the inspectors should be frequently moved from one Province to another, in order to avoid their becoming mixed up with local or personal interests.

At the Ministry of Finance ("Malié"), three books of accounts are kept for the record of the general business, viz., a book of receipts, a book of payments, and a memorandum book to show the daily balance in hand.

In the receipt book are entered consecutively each day, first, such sums as are received directly at the Treasury, and then the gross amount of receipts debited in the Provincial accounts, as they arrive at the capital and are examined. The total amount of the receipts is entered in one sum, and there is no classification of the sources of revenue from which they have been derived.

When sums have to be paid to the Treasury the payer obtains a certificate of the amount from the office of Registry, which he hands to the Cashier with the money. The latter certifies the payment of the sum to the chest, upon which the Finance Minister himself signs a definitive receipt, should it even be for the smallest sum.

The payments are dealt with in the same manner, the entries in the book showing the imprests to other Departments on account of their yearly grants, the payments made at the Treasury for other purposes, and, in one sum, the total amount of payments charged in the Provincial accounts.

In the memorandum-book the total amount of each day's receipts is added to the balance remaining from the previous day, and the amount of payments is deducted, showing the balance in the chest at the close of the day. The Finance Minister receives a statement of the balance each morning, and, at intervals, himself counts the money to see that it agrees with the sum appearing in the memorandum-book.

The monthly Provincial accounts, after they have been recorded, are put away in bags, each Province (of which there are above 100), having its own special bag. These bags are stowed away in boxes, which are locked up in a strong-room.

The deficiencies of such a system are evident.

In order to ascertain the produce of any tax or other source of revenue, it is necessary to search through the book of receipts and through each of the monthly Provincial accounts, amounting to more than 1,000, and extract from them each item applicable to the source of revenue in question. This is rendered still more difficult by the system of farming out certain of the taxes, for in some cases the smaller taxes of a town or district are sold in a mass, the Finance Minister himself having but a very vague idea of what these taxes consist, as they vary in different districts.

By this entire want of classification the Finance Minister is deprived of the important advantage of watching from time to time the progress of each source of revenue, and of comparing against previous years the produce of each tax, either generally or in any individual Province. By the absence also of the entry of details, the Provincial accounts escape an excellent check upon their correctness.

The same remarks apply to the records of the payments, though in a smaller degree, as these transactions are confined at the Treasury to the payment of some of the official salaries and minor expenses, and to the issue of periodical sums to the principal Departments of Government who conduct their own payments.

The mode also of checking the balance by daily addition and deduction in place of carrying the receipts to one side of a cash book, and the payments to the other, does not even afford the means of seeing from time to time what have been the total amounts of the receipts and payments during the portion of the year that may have elapsed.

That the other accounts of the Treasury are not in a more satisfactory condition may be judged from the fact that the preparation of a very incomplete statement of the debts and liabilities of the Empire has required a period of more than three months.

It has already been stated that in making payments, the order presented by the claimant is retained by the cashier, but no written acknowledgment is given by the recipient for the money.

In the case of merchants, bankers, contractors, and others, where the claims are large and sums are paid on account, a statement of the claim is prepared in duplicate, of which the Finance Minister retains one copy, and the claimant holds the other. When a sum is paid on account it is written off from the amount appearing due on each copy, but here again no receipt is given for the sum paid.

It is evident that this system offers great facilities for fraud and collusion, especially when it is remembered that official documents are written with Indian ink on highly glazed paper, and in case an alteration in the writing is required, an application of the tongue is much more effectual than an eraser.

The absence of vouchers for each payment is also a great impediment to the due record of the transactions of the Department.

Another difficulty in regard to the accounts arises from the different kinds of money in which the pecuniary operations of the country are carried on.

In the Provinces cash transactions are principally conducted in a debased silver coin called "beshliks," while in the capital they are in "caimé," an inconvertible paper money which now passes current at a very large discount.

In the accounts of the Finance Ministry these two classes of money are not kept distinct, but paper piastres, worth now about 240, and metallic piastres worth about 120 to the £1 sterling, are entered in the same column. It is averred that the chief portion of the revenue received in metallic is also paid away in the provinces before reaching the capital, but still a considerable portion does reach the chest of the Treasurer at the Malié,

and if he feels inclined to substitute 120 paper piastres for the same number of metallic, he takes out of the chest the value of 11., and puts back what is worth only 10s., without in any way affecting the accounts.

The Finance Minister informed us that a daily memorandum was furnished to him showing the proportion of paper and metallic of which the balance consists, but as this statement cannot be checked by the accounts it can be but of little value.

We propose in order to remedy these defects that a complete system of account-books should be introduced at the Finance Ministry. Detail books should be established in which each receipt or payment should be entered under its proper head, and should be abstracted daily and carried into a cash book kept in the debtor and creditor form; the monthly totals should be passed through a journal into a ledger upon the double entry system, so that not only the details of the pecuniary transactions of the Government may be duly recorded, but that the general results and the financial position of the country may be seen at a glance during any month of the year.

Each of these books should be supplied with double money columns in order to keep separate the metallic from the paper-money, so that a daily control may be kept upon the amount of each which should be found in the chest.

The knowledge of accounts in Turkey is, however, so extremely limited that it would be almost hopeless to attempt to introduce these ameliorations without special assistance being procured for the purpose from some country where there already exists a knowledge of the science of book-keeping, with practical experience in its adaptation to public accounts.

Two or three experienced officers, well versed in Government accounts, aided by a few intelligent accountants, who might easily be found on the spot, would have little difficulty in bringing the accounts into order, provided the necessary facilities and encouragement were given to them by the Turkish Government.

Accounts of the Ministry of War and Admiralty.

The accounts kept at the Seraskeriat (Ministry of War) and the Arsenal (Admiralty) are still more defective.

In those Departments there exists a special Council for the purpose of examining and passing demands under contracts and other claims. When payment is demanded, the Secretary and the Treasurer, after satisfying themselves that the claim has been duly passed by the Council, issue an order for its payment in duplicate, either for the full sum or for a sum on account. One of the duplicates is sent to the cashier, the other is handed to the claimant, and when the latter presents the document for payment, the cashier compares it with his own duplicate, and if it agrees he pays the amount ordered, writing off the sum paid on the back of each document. The receipts and payments are entered in the same book. First come the receipts of the day, and then upon the same page follow the payments. The daily totals are carried into a memorandum-book, in which the receipts are added each day to the previous balance, and the payments are deducted, showing the balance at the close of the day.

This appears to be the whole of the system of accounts at these offices. If it is wished to ascertain the amount of expenditure upon any head of service, the different items have to be picked out of the daily account and added together. There are no abstract books, no ledger, no books in which the accounts of merchants and contractors are entered. These latter are kept on slips of paper which show at the beginning the sum due, and then each instalment on account is deducted as it is paid until no balance remains, the claimant not being called upon to give a receipt or any written acknowledgment for the sum that is paid him.

The balance in the hands of the cashier is occasionally checked by the memorandum-book; but neither the accounts nor the documents are examined after payment either by the Council or elsewhere.

It is evident that under this system there must exist great opportunities for fraud, and should the Treasurer and Secretary combine for this purpose there does not appear to be any check to bring to detection the fraudulent issue of an order for the payment of a sum not legally due.

The authorities granted by the Council should be duly recorded before payment, and the accounts and documents should, after payment, be sent to the Council, or to some officer appointed for the purpose, for examination, in order to see that the payments have not been in excess of the sums passed by the Council, and that they have been made to the proper parties.

It may be readily understood that the financial difficulties under which the country is at present suffering render it impossible for the Treasury to supply the several Depart-

ments with funds sufficient to meet at once the whole of the claims as they fall due. It is therefore the practice of these Departments (as we have observed in our remarks upon the general direction of the finances) to issue orders, called "serghis," for which, however, no special date of payment is fixed.

It is quite uncertain when these "serghis" will be liquidated, as this depends upon the means of meeting them, and upon the amount of pressure or influence the holders are able to bring to bear upon the officials of the Department by which the orders were issued. No notice is taken of these orders in the accounts of the Department until they have been actually paid.

It thus occurs that a large expenditure may be going on without there being any trace of it in the public accounts, and an order for payment which has been issued from the Admiralty at one date may not appear as expenditure till many months afterwards, rendering it impossible to obtain a just view of the liabilities and expenditure of the Department at any given time.

To obviate these inconveniences we would recommend that when there are not sufficient funds to meet the expenditure, the "serghis" or orders for payment should be at once entered in the books of accounts as expenditure, and the Departmental orders should be exchanged on presentation at the Finance Ministry for Treasury obligations, which should be numbered and dated, and be paid in the order in which they are issued, as soon as there are funds to meet them.

These obligations would then take the shape of floating debt chargeable to the Finance Ministry in place of outstanding claims on account of expenditure which has been incurred but has not been recorded.

While referring to this subject it will not be inopportune to give our opinion upon the subject of incurring liabilities upon credit without any limit as to the period of payment. It is evident that when the date of payment may be indefinitely postponed, and where the value of money varies with a rapidity unknown in other countries, the only safe mode for a contractor to enter into contracts for the supply of goods is to fix such a price as would be remunerative at the worst rate of exchange and at the most distant date of payment. The Government therefore pays for the supplies it requires a price infinitely higher than it would pay were the period of payment made short and fixed.

We believe, therefore, that the great saving in expenditure which might be effected by meeting all liabilities with promptness and regularity would be sufficient amply to compensate for the cost which would be incurred by the necessity of raising at a high rate of interest money for the purpose of carrying out this arrangement. A system of regularity in discharging liabilities would also put a stop to the mischievous practice which now exists among merchants and other claimants of paying large fees to the officials in order to obtain preference in the payment of their claims.

The stores belonging to the Admiralty are under the charge of a storekeeper, but as far as we could discover no accounts are kept to check the receipt or issue of stores.

The only book which was produced to us was a rough memorandum-book in which the transactions were entered as they occurred without order or regularity, the receipts and issues of goods being all mixed up together in such confusion that an attempt to check the stock of articles on hand would be hopeless.

Accounts of the Custom-house Department.

At the Custom-house we found a far superior system of accounts in operation, and the present Director is giving his attention to further improvements for which there is still room.

The accounts of this Department are now kept by double-entry under the superintendence of some intelligent Coptic accountants, who have been brought from Egypt for this purpose.

There are, however, still considerable defects which require remedy.

After the examination of goods landed for payment of duties at the Custom-house has taken place in the unsatisfactory manner already described in an earlier portion of our Report, one copy of the note of quantities is given to the merchant, and a second is delivered to the Accountant's Department. The First Clerk thereupon makes upon a loose sheet of paper the calculations of the duties payable according to the Tariff, a Junior Clerk checks it, and it is then submitted to the Chief Clerk. On his approval the results only are entered in a book, and the paper of calculations is destroyed. These papers should be preserved, or the full particulars should be entered in a book before they are checked; for under the present plan the destruction of the original document, which has been subjected to careful examination, prevents the discovery of any discrepancies owing to

error or fraud which may occur in making the entries of the mere results in the account-book, and it would be impossible to fix the responsibility of such errors upon any individual in particular.

A note of the amount payable upon each importation is sent to the merchant, and as there are no bonding warehouses it is usual to give three months' credit. Where the transactions are numerous a monthly demand is sent to the merchant, who compares it with the separate notes previously sent, and if he finds it to be correct, he gives in return a bill of exchange for the amount at three months' date, which if not met when due, being in the hands of Government, becomes a first lien on the estate of the merchant. We are told that losses of revenue by the defalcation of merchants are now of rare occurrence.

Formerly merchants were allowed to keep their accounts with Government for duties open for long periods, and large sums were lost by this system of long credit, but these monthly settlements by bills of exchange have remedied this evil.

The money as received at the Custom-house, as well as any payments on account of salaries and expenses, are entered in a cash-book, kept in the debtor and creditor form, and the money transactions of the Department are passed through a journal into a ledger kept upon the double-entry system, but still in a defective manner. In the journal the debits and credits are placed in the same column, and they are not totalled, so that it does not act as a check upon the ledger.

The ledger is also very imperfect, and does not contain more than a dozen accounts. All the merchants' accounts are combined in one general personal account, in place of each merchant with whom there are current transactions having a separate account. The duties received from all sources are entered under one head, so that it is impossible to tell the amount of duty which the several articles of import and export have produced. This renders it very difficult to arrive at any just estimate of the progress of the various branches of trade or industry of the country, but we believe that the present Director of the Constantinople Custom-house has the intention of introducing accounts to obviate this defect.

The salaries and expenses of the Custom-house are paid out of the revenue in hand, but they are correctly charged as expenditure, and the gross revenue is brought to account.

Until lately most of the Provincial Custom-houses have been farmed, and, amongst other disadvantages, one result has been that the Government has no accounts whatever at these ports, as all that it has looked to has been to obtain the highest amount of rent and to receive the instalments with regularity.

As now, however, the direction of the Custom-house in Roumelia and the collection of the duties have come under the direct charge of the Government, and as the farming system may shortly cease in the Asiatic Provinces also, it becomes of the highest importance that accounts upon the most approved system should be introduced at the head office at the capital and be extended to the other ports of the empire, and that the Provincial Custom-houses, in place of being under the control of the Finance Minister, as some are at present, should be entirely placed under the direction of the Director of Customs at Constantinople, who should be supplied with a staff of able and trustworthy accountants, for the purpose of framing and directing the accounts. In order to do this effectively it would be very desirable to get assistance from the west of Europe, from whence experienced officers could no doubt be obtained to guide and instruct the others.

Accounts of the Evcaff Department.

The accounts of the Evcaff, the Department having charge of a vast amount of property devoted to religious and charitable purposes, were formerly kept in a very inefficient manner, and it is stated that great abuses exist in the management of these funds.

The Minister, however, who was appointed to take charge of this Department since our arrival here had commenced the introduction of a superior system of accounts, and by his reforms had, in the few months of his administration, greatly improved the financial position of this Department. We heard, therefore, with regret that this intelligent officer had been dismissed.

Accounts of the Bureau d'Amortissement.

The accounts at the Bureau d'Amortissement, the office charged with the sinking funds on the "consolidés" and the "hasnè tahvilis," are also kept in a very satisfactory manner, and

the persons who have carried out these improvements might well be employed on more important accounts.

As far as we can learn the accounts of other Departments are in no better condition than those of the War Department and Admiralty, and there seems but little chance of their being brought into proper order unless the Porte will consent to employ a sufficient staff of able accountants, and will support those who have the energy to carry out improvements.

We have already referred to one change which we wish strongly to recommend, and which applies to all the Departments of the Government. Under the present system each Department receives monthly sums from the Finance Minister, which it disburses through its own cashier. Each Department has its own pay-office, its own chest, and a special balance of money under its control.

We have already suggested that no payments in money beyond certain petty disbursements should be made in any public offices, except at the Treasury, but that the whole of the payments of the Administrative Departments should be made by orders upon the Paymaster-General, who would make the payments under the direction of the Finance Minister.

Each Department would charge the order for payment as expenditure. The accounts would be simplified and expedited, the balance of public money would be economized, and the accounts of the Treasury would act as a check upon those of the other Departments.

The receipts and payments of the Treasury, after they have been duly recorded by the Accountant-General, as well as the accounts of the several Departments, should be referred, as we have suggested in a former part of our Report, to a Board of Audit, which should be composed of officers thoroughly conversant with public accounts.

The staff of accountants to be employed in introducing an improved system of accounts should be placed under the direction of this Board, so as to secure uniformity of accounts throughout the whole of the public offices, and the several Departments should be bound to adopt the recommendations of the Board in the arrangement of their accounts.

BALANCE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the current year, 1861-62, is estimated to exceed the receipts by 212,223,375 piastres, or about 1,700,000%.* To this, however, must be added a sum which is given in the list of debts as a separate liability, but which ought to have been included in the deficit of this year, 152,346,500 piastres, or about 1,220,000%, representing the loss to the Government under different items of expenditure which have had to be met by payments in metallic, and which loss is consequent on the present high rate of exchange caused by the depreciation of paper money.

The total estimated deficit of the current year is therefore about 364,000,000 piastres, or about 2,920,000%.

Such being the present deficit, we have now to consider what will be the amount for which, as regards future years, either by reduction of expenditure or by increase of income, provision must be made.

Although the sum last mentioned (152,346,500 piastres), is properly to be treated as part of the current deficit, its existence is the result of a state of things to which there is an absolute and immediate necessity of putting an end. It represents, in fact, a part of the price paid by the Government for a loan of that most costly and ruinous kind which consists in the issue of inconvertible paper. Among the remedial measures which must be adopted to meet the present emergency is included the withdrawal of the paper money of the Government, which (if a loan cannot be obtained) must be effected gradually, by means of a certain amount of public revenue annually set apart for that purpose. If this is done under regulations such as to inspire public confidence, the result must be an immediate enhancement of the value of the paper money; and the sum in question (of 152,346,500 piastres) will be still further reduced by the agreement which (we understand) has been made by some, and is likely to be made by other States having Treaties with Turkey, to pay the Custom duties of Constantinople in

* The actual deficit for the year 1860-61 is stated in the list of debts at 150,277,065 piastres, or about 1,202,000%. The estimated deficit, therefore, for the year 1861-62 exceeds by 61,946,310 piastres, or about 498,000%, the actual deficit for the past year. We have been unable to obtain the details of this estimate, and therefore to ascertain in what manner this increase of deficit is to be accounted for; but, inasmuch as the receipts for the year 1861-62 are estimated at about the same sum as that to which they amounted in 1860-61, it is, of course, clear that the increase must arise from an addition to the expenditure. It is probable that this addition proceeds from extraordinary expenditure, as, for instance, from that incurred on account of the Montenegrin difficulty; but as we have no means of judging to what extent this is the case, we have thought it advisable to take the estimated deficit of 1861-62 (about 1,700,000%) as the basis for an estimate of the probable requirements of the State for the next few years.

metallic money. If, in addition to this, the measures which we have suggested, or are about to suggest, for the re-adjustment of the balance sheet and the improvement of the financial administration, are adopted without delay, the effect will, in all probability, be to re-establish public credit, and as a consequence to raise the paper money of the Government to its full nominal value.

We think, therefore, that in estimating the amount which will be required for future years, this sum of 152,346,500 piastres may be excluded from consideration.

We have, then, in the first place, to provide for a probable excess of expenditure over income of 1,700,000*l*.

In the next place, it will be necessary to place a certain fixed charge upon the revenue, for the purpose of dealing with fiscal liabilities and difficulties which can no longer be postponed. There can be little doubt that an annual sum of 500,000*l*., judiciously applied, would be sufficient for this object, whether it were used for the purpose of obtaining a loan (supposing that course possible), which would serve to withdraw the existing paper and to supersede the necessity of a further issue, or for the withdrawal by annual instalments of the whole amount of paper which is already in circulation, or which remains to be issued.

The annual sum, therefore, for which, on this estimate, it becomes necessary in future years to provide, either by diminution of expenditure, or by increase of receipts, is in all about 2,200,000*l*. (275,000,000 piastres).

In considering the means by which this sum may be obtained, we do not hesitate to say that a material reduction of the aggregate expenditure of the country is an expedient which we should recommend for adoption only in case it should be absolutely impossible to devise any other. As we have shown, important economies might easily be effected in several branches of the expenditure, as, for instance, with regard to the Civil list, and to the salaries of the higher class of employés, and a considerable diminution of expenditure may be expected to arise from the reforms which we have suggested in regard to the general administration of the finances, and to the mode of keeping the public accounts. But the whole of the revenue which might thus be saved is urgently required for the service of the country. It can scarcely be said that a revenue of 12,000,000*l*. is too large for the due administration of the affairs of an empire such as that of Turkey. It is true that a considerable portion of this revenue is misapplied and ill-administered; but simply to reduce it by that portion, while some of the most urgent necessities of the country remain unsatisfied, would be a measure economical only in appearance. With an army scarcely sufficient to ensure the defence of the frontier from marauding tribes, and powerless in the face of a fanatical outbreak; with a police which, in many parts of the Empire, casts not even the shadow of restraint upon the thriving trade of brigandage; with production and commerce paralyzed for want of roads; and a judicial system requiring great and expensive improvements,—it must be admitted that the mode of redressing a balance-sheet which consists in a mere reduction of expenditure would be costly in the extreme to this country. On the other hand, the resources of the Empire are admitted to be immense, and its taxation only burdensome in so far as it is ill-adjusted.

It is, therefore, we think to the revenue side of the account that recourse must be had for the means of placing the income of the Empire in the required relation to its expenditure.

There can be no question but that when the measures which have already been taken by the Government, as well as those (supposing them to be taken) which we have recommended, have produced their full effect, the increase in the receipts of the Treasury will be sufficient to provide not only the additional sum which we have found to be requisite, but one of far greater amount. The gain to the revenue which may be expected to arise from the relief given by the readjustment of the “verghi,” from the direct collection of the “dime,” from the abolition of the export duties, from stamps, from tobacco, from the proper management of mines, fisheries, and other public property, and especially from the making of roads, will be sufficient to place it in, to say the least, a prosperous condition. The construction of roads, even if confined in the first instance to some of the more important agricultural districts, would in itself suffice to produce a great and permanent increase of national income. Amongst other evils caused by the want of roads is, that it reduces the price of produce in the interior to such an extent that while corn is selling at the seaboard at 30 or 40 piastres the kilo, the same quantity of produce will not produce to the cultivator in the interior more than 4 or 5 piastres, the cost of freight exceeding the difference of value. A threefold loss arises to the Government in consequence:—

1. The Government obtains only the small local value for the share of produce which falls into its hands in the shape of “dimes” in place of the increased value which a ready

means of transport would give to what is the largest and most important source of the revenue of Turkey.

2. As export from the inland country becomes impossible, the cultivation of agricultural produce cannot be extended beyond the local wants of the district, and, consequently, the Government receives "dimes" on a very limited production.

3. The indigence of the agricultural population, caused by this want of inducement to increase their produce, diminishes, to a great extent, their consumption of articles paying import duties, and the amount received from them on account of other taxes.

The new law respecting roads shows at least an intention on the part of the Government of dealing with this important subject. The principle of that measure, viz., that of entrusting the different communities with the task of constructing and repairing, at their own expense, the roads of their several districts, leaving to the Government little more than the cost of administration and professional superintendence, appears to us to be sound. And although without an intimate acquaintance with the internal condition of the country, it is impossible to form a judgment as to the probable success of the law, and especially as to the expediency of effecting the object in view by means of personal service, rather than of a highway rate, we should hope, now that the supreme importance of that object has been recognized by the Government, that every effort will be made to overcome any difficulties of execution, or, if necessary, to devise some more effectual scheme.

Among the impediments which exist to commercial prosperity, and therefore to a flourishing condition of the revenue in this country, must be noticed the system of "Esnaffs," or Corporations, under which, as regards many trades and pursuits, a monopoly exists, which, by excluding competition, prevents the advancement which the skill and energy of intelligent or industrious individuals would otherwise produce. And the first evil brings with it a second; for, in order to prevent the monopolists from charging unreasonable prices, the Government is again obliged to interfere, and dictate the prices at which the articles or produce are to be sold. Meat, bread, and even garden-produce, are subjected to these regulations; and in cases of failure of crops, it frequently occurs that the prices fixed do not remunerate the producers, and production ceases at a time when it should be especially stimulated. We strongly recommend the removal of these interferences with the free course of demand and supply.

For similar reasons, it is most desirable that an end should be put to the custom which obtains in some districts, amongst others in the Government of Salonica, of prohibiting the peasantry from leaving the estates of landholders without their sanction. We have even heard of cases where peasants have been ordered to return after an absence of ten years. This attempt artificially to regulate labour and production by Government control can only result in injury to the State and to the people.

But the operation of most of these measures, directly or indirectly conducing to the increase of the revenue, must necessarily be gradual, and (supposing that they are all adopted) they will effect comparatively little for the next few years to come. It becomes necessary, therefore, to consider by what new imposts or other fiscal measures the requisite annual amount (2,200,000*l.*) may be obtained.

Taxation of Constantinople.

Among these, that which is entitled to the first place because it is called for by considerations, not only of expediency, but of mere justice, is a measure which would compel the Capital to bear for the future its due share of taxation.

The exemption of Constantinople and its environs from direct taxes not only deprives the Treasury of a large sum which it might legitimately claim, but inflicts a great wrong upon the tax-paying community, and has the further disadvantage of producing an unnatural determination to the Capital of wealth and social position which are greatly needed for the improvement, moral and material, of other parts of the Empire. Whatever reasons may have existed for the original exemption, there can be none for its continuation at the present time; and we cannot believe that a mere traditionary custom will any longer be allowed to prevail against the yearly increasing claims of distributive justice and the urgent necessities of the national exchequer.

A step in the right direction has, we believe, been recently contemplated by the Government, and the draft of a law "*sur la patente*" prepared, by which a duty is to be imposed on all shops, warehouses, and other places of commercial business, at the rate of 8 per cent. on the rent of those which have not had a monopoly, and 4 per cent. on that of those which have had, but are no longer to have one, and of 12 per cent. on places in which banking is carried on; with a further annual impost, averaging from about $\frac{1}{2}$ to

1½ per cent. on the rent, in the shape of a fee for a “teskereh” or permission to trade.* No estimate appears to have been made as to the yield of the proposed tax, and we are unable to conjecture, even approximately, its probable amount; but from the few data which exist on this subject, we should suppose that it would not be more than from 50,000*l.* to 100,000*l.* per annum.

Such a measure, however, would obviously be but a small instalment of that which is really required, and which is to tax, in fair proportion, the accumulated wealth and luxury of the capital. The mode of effecting this object which most naturally suggests itself, is the application to Constantinople and its neighbourhood of the “verghi” or income tax, as paid in all other places throughout the Empire. There are, however, some objections to this course. The provinces are accustomed to the “verghi” itself, to the machinery by which it is assessed, and to the inequalities unavoidable, or otherwise, of its operation. The capital would not only have to bear an entirely new tax, but to submit to a process of inquisitorial assessment of which it has had no experience, and to an inequitable incidence which it would ill tolerate. We are disposed to think, therefore, that the new impost should not be the “verghi” itself, but a modification of it. There can be little doubt that the rent of a dwelling-house is, in general, no unfair test of the relative wealth of the person occupying it; and we should propose that a certain fixed sum should be imposed upon Constantinople in the way of “verghi,” which should be divided among the resident householders, the share which is paid by each individual being proportionate to the rent or annual value of the house which he occupies; all houses below a certain rental, and also (in the event of the execution of the new projected law “sur la patente”) all shops, warehouses, and other places of business subject to the new law, being exempted from the tax.

It remains to consider what should be the amount of the proposed contribution.

The materials for forming an accurate judgment upon this question are altogether wanting, though there can be little doubt that a sum amounting to several hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum might safely be imposed. In the year 1859 a tax which was laid for one year upon the owners of houses in Constantinople and its environs, but which was only partially levied, of 10 per cent. on the rental in cases where the house was let, and 5 per cent. in cases where it was occupied by the owner, and a further impost on persons engaged in trade of 10 per cent. on the rental of their place of business, was estimated by the Government to yield 35,000,000 piastres. If we suppose the last-mentioned tax (on the rental of places of business) to have been taken as yielding one-third of the whole amount, there would remain a sum of about 23,000,000 piastres as the estimated result of the tax on dwelling-houses. Assuming this sum to represent on the average 8 per cent. on the rental, and the rental to be one-fifth of the income of the occupier, it will be found that an impost of 70,000,000 piastres, or 560,000*l.*, would be equivalent to a tax of somewhat less than 5 per cent. on the aggregate income of occupiers of dwelling-houses. This sum, therefore, might (as it would appear) fairly be fixed as an annual payment upon the capital. Some deduction must, however, be made from it on account of the exemption which we have suggested of houses below a certain rental to be afterwards determined, and also for any loss which may be occasioned by the refusal of foreigners to pay the tax; but allowance being made on these accounts, a sum of fully 500,000*l.* might (it would appear) safely be taken as that which (according to the estimate of the Government on the occasion referred to) Constantinople and its neighbourhood should be required to pay.

Foreign residents in Turkey, who under the “Capitulations” (as they are termed) of their respective Governments, claim (with what justice it is not within our province to inquire) exemption from all taxation which can in any sense be considered personal, will, we presume, pay this tax, if they pay it at all, only in the way of a voluntary contribution. We would venture to suggest that the time has arrived when those States which desire the prosperity of Turkey should endeavour to effect some equitable arrangement with respect to this anomalous exemption, which originated in a state of things very different to the present, and which is the cause of no inconsiderable loss and embarrassment to the Turkish Government. It can hardly be expected, however, that any privileges which foreigners may be held to possess in this respect should be abandoned so long as they are excluded from proprietary rights in Turkey; nor, on the other hand, could the Porte be fairly required to grant such rights to foreigners, so long as the houses which they occupy are exempt from liability to the visits of the police, and may thus afford shelter to criminals and impunity to crime. The natural basis, therefore, of any such arrange-

* As regards this fee, the difficulty arising from the claims of foreigners to exemption is met by requiring that each lease shall contain a provision in which the owner of the place of business for which the lease is granted guarantees the payment of the fee.

ment would be, on the one hand, the concession to foreigners of the right to hold property in their own names, and, on the other, the assimilation of their position to that of Ottoman subjects in regard both to the payment of taxes and to the authority of the police. On the part of those foreign nations which are in the habit of treating Turkey as a civilized and friendly State, such a modification of existing Treaties would have both justice and consistency to recommend it; while the Porte, which is (as we have had already occasion to notice) seriously injured in its fiscal interests by the restriction in regard to the tenure of property, would, probably, gain more by that which it conceded than by that which it received in return.

Domestic Servants.

A tax on male servants would, in Turkey, be characterized by almost every element of fiscal expediency. The inordinate number of male servants employed in this country, and the amount of waste, idleness, and useless display which are its consequences, are obvious and notorious; and a tax which would yield a large sum to the Treasury, and, while falling wholly on the superfluities of life, and tending to the restraint of luxurious habits, would, at the same time, set free for productive employment capacity for labour which is now lost to the community, is one which needs but little argument to recommend its adoption.

The statistics necessary for a conjecture as to the sum which might be obtained from such an impost are wanting, and any estimate which we could form of it must be somewhat vague. So far, however, as we are able to judge from inquiries which we have made on the subject, we should suppose that the number of male servants in Turkey might be safely stated as at least 500,000, on which number a tax of 1*l.* per head would produce a gross sum of 500,000*l.* This sum would probably be but little diminished by the cost of collection, which would be effected in the provinces by existing machinery; but it may be well to allow a margin on this account, and to place the annual amount which might be anticipated from this source at 450,000*l.* (56,250,000 piastres). The tax should include all caiquejis (boatmen) and other male servants employed either within or without the town, except those acting in the capacity of farm-labourers.

"Vakouf" Property.

The conversion of "vakouf" property at the option of the holders into "mulk" (or freehold) property is an expedient by which there is no doubt that the revenue might be very largely increased, and which possesses some singular advantages.

"Vakouf" property is property belonging to the mosques and other religious establishments or benevolent foundations, or in which they are interested, and is administered on their behalf by a special Department of the State called the "Evkaf" Department. It consists of two great classes, viz.: (1) property or its produce actually belonging to such establishments, and held or received on their account by the "Evkaf," and (2) property owned by private persons, but lapsing, in default of direct* heirs of the owner, to the "Evkaf," and subject in the meantime to a small yearly contribution payable to that Department.

It is to the second of these two classes of "vakouf" property that the proposal for a voluntary conversion into freehold applies. The yearly contribution referred to, originally small in proportion to the value of the property, bears at present a still smaller proportion to it, owing to the greatly diminished value of Turkish currency; and the proposal is based on the well-known fact that a very large number of persons who hold "vakouf" property of this description would willingly pay, as the price of its conversion into freehold, far more than they now pay in their prescribed yearly contribution; so much more, indeed, that the sums which would thus be readily paid would, after supplying the "Evkaf" Department with an amount equivalent to the present yearly payments, and to the reversionary interest in the property which it would lose by the conversion, yield a very large surplus as clear profit to the State.

The amount of revenue which might thus be obtained would undoubtedly be very large; and it seems possible to form some kind of estimate of it by means of the following considerations.

From Returns with which we have been furnished by the "Evkaf" Department, we find that the proceeds of the fixed yearly contributions from "vakouf" property such as that in question amounted in the last year for which the accounts have been made up, to 2,777,748 piastres (or about 22,700*l.*) From the best information which we can obtain

* An owner of "vakouf" property having no direct heirs is not debarred from selling it to a person having such heirs, and so preventing it for the time from falling into the "Evkaf."

on the subject, it appears that the rate of these contributions varies from 1 per 10,000 to 1 per 100,000 on the value of the property; that is to say, their average rate may be taken at 1 per 45,000 on that value. The value, therefore, of the property on which the contributions were paid may be stated at 125,000,000,000 piastres (or 1,000,000,000*l.*) It further appears that the difference in the market value of "*vakouf*" and "*mulk*" (freehold property) is from 15 to 30 per cent., or on the average $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. If such be the case, an annual payment of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the value would, there can be little doubt, be willingly made by most owners of "*vakouf*" property, in return for its conversion into freehold. Now the total value of the property to which the proposed measure would be applicable is (as has been seen) 125,000,000,000 piastres, or 1,000,000,000*l.*, and on this a yearly payment of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. would give 625,000,000 piastres, or in round numbers 5,000,000*l.*, which, therefore, would be the gross annual sum realized by the measure, on the supposition that all the owners of this kind of property were to use the power given to them of converting it into freehold.

It is probable, however, that there would be a considerable number of persons, especially among the Mussulman proprietors, who, as much from indifference or dislike to change as from any other cause, would not avail themselves of that power, though we should imagine that such persons would be in a decided minority. Let it be supposed then—a very unfavourable supposition—that no more than one-half of the whole number of proprietors convert their property into freehold, there would still be a gross sum of 2,500,000*l.* (312,500,000 piastres) as the result of the measure. From this must be deducted one-half the sum stated above, 2,777,748 piastres (about 22,200*l.*), as that which is now received in yearly contributions by the "*Evkaf*" Department; and one-half of the further sum of 4,410,549 piastres (or about 35,300*l.*), which, according to the Returns supplied to us by the Minister of the "*Evkaf*," has been the average annual amount received during the last nine years on account of "*vakouf*" property, which has fallen in to the "*Evkaf*" Department in default of direct heirs: in all, a sum of 3,594,148 piastres (or about 28,750*l.*), which sum would be retained by the "*Evkaf*" Department, and applied by it to the same purposes as before. It might be desirable, however, to provide that, as regards the converted property there should not only be no loss, but a gain to those interested in the application of the funds derived from "*vakouf*" sources; and for this purpose the "*Evkaf*" Department might be allowed to retain, in each case of conversion into freehold, a sum equal to twice the amount of the yearly contributions which it received from the property before the conversion, besides the proportionate sum payable for the loss of the reversionary interest. On the supposition which we have taken that half the property in question is converted, this (as will be seen) would require the deduction of a further sum of 11,100*l.* from the gross amount. There would remain the sum of 2,460,150*l.*, or 307,518,750 piastres, as clear gain to the State.

We have not been able to discover any valid or even plausible objection to this scheme, which, as we have shown, would benefit all the parties concerned, viz., the State, the holders of the property, and the religious order. We are nevertheless led to believe that there would be much hesitation on the part of the Government to adopt it, owing probably to the ideal aversion entertained by an influential portion of the community to the alienation of "*vakouf*" property on whatever terms. We have reason to think, however, that if the option proposed to be given were not that of converting the property into freehold, but to allow it to be inherited by near relations, such as a brother or a nephew, there would be no such hesitation. This latter arrangement would of course be less productive to the revenue than the former; since the payment which the owners would be willing to make in return for the concession would be considerably smaller. Supposing, however, their contribution in the latter case to be $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. instead of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., there would be still a clear gain to the public treasury of half the amount (2,460,150*l.*) which we have given as the estimated result of the more extended concession, i.e., a clear gain to the Treasury of about 1,200,000*l.*

The advantage to be derived from the proposed measure would not be confined to its direct fiscal value. The increased inducement which would be given to the owners of property to improve its condition, and the additional interest which they would take in it, would contribute not only to the material but to the social welfare of the country.

To these sources of revenue may be added the increase to be expected from the new law respecting stamps, which we should estimate at a sum of at least 50,000*l.*, and which might, if the law were properly administered, be much larger; from the changes which we have proposed in the tobacco duties, which we should place also at a minimum of 50,000*l.*; and from the direct collection of the "*dîme*" in Anatolia, and which, supposing it to

produce about the same as it is estimated to yield this year in Roumelia, may be taken at 120,000*l*. The account, therefore, will stand as follows :—

£		£	
Taxation of Constantinople	500,000	Increase on tobacco	50,000
Limited concession to holders of "vacouf" property	1,200,000	Increase on the "dime" of Anatolia ..	120,000
Tax on domestic servants	450,000		
Increase on stamps	50,000	In all	£2,370,000

Thus showing an increase of revenue which exceeds by 170,000*l*. the sum (2,200,000*l*.) which was required; and this even on the supposition that the measure respecting "vakouf" property is adopted only in the very modified form which we have indicated as that to which there could be no opposition, and without including any additional sum which it might be possible to raise by means of the optional conversion of "tapou" property into freehold, to which we have referred in a former part of our Report.

We are aware of no obstacle whatever, which the most ordinary courage and energy on the part of the Government might not overcome, to the adoption of these measures. If, however, from some causes which we cannot foresee, any of them should be considered impracticable, there can, it is certain, be little difficulty in supplying their place without any appreciable injury to the industrial and commercial interests of the Empire, or any serious danger of popular discontent.

In this manner, then, the balance-sheet of the Empire may at once be placed in a satisfactory position, supposing that no increase takes place in the present scale of public expenditure; while the improvements which have already been effected, and those which we trust will be effected, in respect to the taxation of the country and the development of its resources, may be expected, before any long time has elapsed, to increase to a much larger extent the national income, and to place the Porte in a condition, not only to make all due provision for the stability and good government of the Empire in ordinary periods, but to apply in any extraordinary emergency to its own subjects or to foreign nations for a loan at moderate interest without fear of failure.

PUBLIC DEBT.

A Statement has been furnished to us by the Porte, showing the debts and liabilities of the Ottoman Government. We believe that great care has been bestowed upon the preparation of this Statement; but owing to the defective mode of keeping the public accounts, full reliance cannot be placed upon its accuracy.

The following is an abstract of the principal items of this account converted into sterling :—

The foreign debt, being in sterling or francs, has been taken at the par of exchange (110 piastres to the *l*.), and the remainder at the rate of 125 piastres to the *l*., the rate at which all the general calculations in this Report have been made. It is one of the difficulties experienced in dealing with the Turkish accounts that moneys of different values are mixed up together. Some of the claims are payable in gold, which is at about par; some in debased silver coin, which is at a discount of from 8 to 10 per cent.; and the rest in paper, which has varied during the last twelve months between a discount of 20 and 140 per cent. Under these circumstances, and with some prospect that measures will at once be taken for the purpose of diminishing the present large depreciation of the paper currency, the average rate of 125 piastres to the *l*. has been thought a not unfair one.

ABSTRACT of Debts and Liabilities of Turkey.

	Currency.	Sterling £.
	Piastres.	
Foreign Debt, at various rates of interest (less sinking funds)..	..	14,613,059
Home Debt, viz., stock and bonds:—		
Consolidés, bearing interest at 6 per cent., payable in gold	.. 417,750,000	
Hasné Tahvilis " " " ditto	.. 237,500,000	
Sehims, " " " 8 per cent., payable in paper	.. 75,000,000	
Serghis, " " " 6 per cent., payable in metallic	.. 382,104,500	
	1,112,354,500	8,898,836
Debts due by the Finance Ministry, chiefly bearing high interest at various rates, viz. :—		
Borrowed on assignment of revenue	 478,902,000	
" without assignment	 41,465,000	
Miscellaneous debts	 36,148,995	
	556,515,995	4,452,128

						Currency.	Sterling £
						Piastres.	
Sundry liabilities, viz. :—							
War Department ..	..	..	..	..	..	66,970,000	
Artillery ..	..	..	..	..	..	13,853,500	
Rediff ..	..	..	..	..	..	84,087,000	
Herzegovine ..	..	..	..	..	..	80,611,500	
Syria ..	..	..	..	..	..	76,289,704	
Total military ..						321,811,704	
Admiralty and other naval services ..	..	..	..	..	..	80,939,248	
Civil ..	..	..	..	..	..	6,476,000	
Civil List ..	..	..	..	..	..	54,117,000	
						463,343,952	3,694,752
Estimated difference of exchange, agio, and interest on payments :—							
In 1276..	..	..	..	..	..	59,864,000	
In 1277 ..	..	..	..	..	..	152,346,500	
						212,210,500	1,697,720
Deficits on budgets :—							
Balance of deficits of 1274 and 1275..	..	..	..	..	..	29,043,000	
Deficit of 1276 ..	..	..	..	..	..	150,277,065	
Estimated deficit of 1277 ..	..	..	..	..	..	212,223,375	
						391,543,440	3,132,348
							36,488,843

From this statement it will be seen that the debt amounts to about 36,500,000*l.*, which in round numbers may be put thus :—

						£
Foreign debt ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,500,000
Home debt, viz., stock and bonds ..	..	..	..	..	..	9,000,000
Debts to Galata merchants and others, at high interest ..	..	..	..	..	..	4,500,000
Claims unpaid, and other Departmental liabilities ..	..	..	..	..	..	8,500,000
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	£36,500,000

The first two are charged with sinking funds, by which they should be extinguished in the course of twenty or thirty years, while the two latter classes of debts press for immediate settlement, and are the cause of the present financial difficulties of the Turkish Empire.

The sums advanced by the merchants of Galata were principally secured by assignments of the revenue of the past year, but as the bulk of these debts still remains unliquidated, it is evident that the revenue has been applied to other purposes, and, looking to the large deficiency shown upon the Budget of the present year, there does not appear to be much prospect of these claims being met out of the incoming revenue.

The statement of debts is intended, we have been informed, to represent the state of affairs as they will stand at the close of the present financial year, that is, in March next; and, consequently, the sinking funds payable during the course of the year are deducted from the original amounts.

With regard to the claims and other liabilities they are, as far as we can learn, represented as they existed in March last. At that date power had been taken for the issue of 1,250,000,000 piastres in “*caimé*,” out of which sum 600,000,000 piastres were specially appropriated, viz. :—

						Piastres.
To proposed Exchange Bank ..	..	..	..	..	..	250,000,000
To replace old “ <i>caimés</i> ” ..	..	..	..	..	..	250,000,000
To public works ..	..	..	..	..	..	100,000,000
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	600,000,000

Leaving 650,000,000 piastres available for the payment of claims; and this amount, it will be seen, has in the Statement been deducted accordingly from the total amount of debts and liabilities. It will, therefore, be observed that the total at the end of the Statement entirely excludes the liabilities of the State on account of the “*caimé*” which has been, or is to be, issued, and which (including the capital reserved for the Exchange Bank, which, if not needed for that scheme, will, probably, be used for some other purpose) will amount, at the close of the year, to 1,250,000,000 piastres, and which should properly be added to

the net sum given in the statement, making, in all, the debts and liabilities of the State amount to 41,500,000*l.* sterling.* The reason given by the Finance Minister for the exclusion of the “*caimé*” was that this paper-money being inconvertible and not bearing interest, the State was not bound to repay it at any time, and that, therefore, it need not be looked upon as a liability.

It is, however, to be feared that, with a large deficiency on the budget, and an almost daily fall in the value of paper-money, which adds constantly to the cost of such payments as have to be made in gold or metallic, the amount of liabilities will, before the close of the financial year, be still largely increased, and this consideration makes it most imperative that immediate steps should be taken to add to the means and credit of the State, and to arrest the rapid fall in the value of the circulating medium.

The difficulties in the way of obtaining a loan, either in the country itself or from abroad, sufficient in amount to meet even the most pressing necessities of the State, seem to be such that other resources must be looked to for a palliation of the financial crisis.

The Turkish Government, in its necessities, has largely recourse to the issue of “*caimé*,” an inconvertible paper, which, although it bears no interest, and is at the present moment at a discount of about 140 per cent., still bears a higher price in the market than do any of the stocks or securities of the Government in this country, although the latter bear high rates of interest and are to be paid off at par within short periods.

For instance, the “*consolidés*” bearing 6 per cent. interest are now quoted at about 75, purchaseable in paper, which is itself at a discount of nearly 140 per cent., so that 100 piastres “*consolidé*” can be purchased for about 31 piastres gold, showing a rate of interest of about 19 per cent.

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the Turkish Government, not clearly seeing the consequences, prefers the issue of paper, which apparently costs it scarcely anything, to the creation of stock, which throws the burden of heavy interest upon the revenue, and that it readily listens to the promises of those who, in return for a handsome contribution from the State, pretend that they can restrain the natural course of monetary transactions, and, by drawing and counter-drawing, change a fictitious and fluctuating into a real and permanent value.

The dangerous effects of the rapid depreciation of the circulating medium, affecting as it does the price of goods and the value of fixed remuneration, and of debts or payments in paper, the uncertainty and risk which it imparts to all the operations of trade, and the vast addition which it makes to the cost of articles which have to be purchased by the Government in gold or metallic, either abroad or in the provinces, creating discontent amongst all classes, and increasing to an enormous extent the public expenditure, as well as the futile and mischievous policy of endeavouring to regulate the exchanges by the interference of the Government, have been so strongly urged upon the Porte that it is to be hoped that the proposed schemes for extending the issue of “*caimé*” to the provinces, and for the formation of an establishment to keep up the exchanges by State contributions, will be abandoned.

As regards especially the creation of a Bank of Exchange there could scarcely be a step more fatal to the credit of the State, which it is now absolutely necessary to restore, than the adoption, for the purpose of meeting its difficulties, of a measure contrary to the most elementary principles of political economy, and which actual experience in this country has proved to be powerless for the accomplishment of its object, and disastrous to the interests of the Treasury. The diversion, for the purposes of a fallacious and ruinous scheme, of a sum amounting to 2,000,000*l.* sterling (250,000,000 piastres) which would otherwise be available for the discharge of liabilities imperatively requiring liquidation, is an act to which we trust the Turkish Government does not seriously intend to resort.

The only safe and effective means of meeting the present emergency must be looked for in the determination of the Sultan and his Government to carry out with promptness and with energy the administrative and financial reforms which have been pressed upon their notice.

The debt of Turkey is comparatively speaking so small, and the resources of the country so great, that when once the public confidence is gained there will no longer be any difficulty in obtaining a loan on fair terms, or in consolidating the outstanding liabilities into Government stock.

It will be necessary as soon as possible to establish a surplus of revenue over expen-

						Piastres.
* Net amount given in the Statement	..	..	..	..	..	3,693,384,887
Add “ <i>caimés</i> ” ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,250,000,000
						4,943,384,887
						G 2

diture. We have indicated certain measures by which, as it seems to us, this object might be the most readily effected, and a sum of 500,000*l.*, at the least, obtained, which would be annually available for the purpose of dealing with the debts and liabilities of the State.

In the meantime we would recommend that annuities, either perpetual or for a long term, say 100 years, should be created, and that an effort should be made to induce those who have claims upon the State to accept stock or annuities in lieu of them. It might also be found possible gradually to consolidate a portion of the "*caïmé*," and to convert the "*serghis*," "*sehims*," and other minor securities into this new stock, so as to give it a more important position in the money market, and clear off the minor securities which might interfere with its popularity.

This new stock, in place of being issued at an enormous discount, should bear a high rate of interest, say 12 per cent., and even at this rate of interest it would still have to be issued below par, and thus leave a margin in the price which would act as an attraction to speculators, but would at the same time admit of the prospect that when the credit of Turkey has been re-established, and the stock rises above par, the rate of interest may be reduced.

Certain revenues of the State should be specially assigned as security for the interest of the new stock, and it would add much to public confidence if the revenues of the Empire were paid into a National Bank, founded on a secure and solid basis, and if the public balances were kept at such an establishment in place of at the Treasury, and periodical accounts were published showing the weekly receipts and issues on the public account, and the balances in hand.

There are other means which if properly applied might be made to supply a large amount of ready money, besides adding largely to the prosperity and income of the country.

In place of throwing impediments in the way of the introduction of foreign capital, every means should be taken to encourage foreign enterprise, and to impart to the shareholders of commercial companies a feeling of confidence in the Turkish Government, in the protection which will be afforded them against the opposition of prejudiced officials, and in the even-handed justice that will be administered in cases where their rights are invaded.

Under such circumstances, capitalists and companies would not hesitate to offer high terms for the privilege of working the valuable mines or other resources with which the country abounds, and we have reason to think that if long leases were granted with full security there would not be much difficulty in inserting in the terms of the leases a stipulation that the amount of the first five years' rent should be paid in advance upon the concession being granted; this measure, if carried out to any considerable extent, would bring large sums of ready money to the coffers of the State, and afford the means of liquidating some of the claims the non-payment of which is so injurious to the public credit.

It may be urged that under the present condition of the country the terms offered would not be so favourable as they might be some years hence when financial order may have been re-established, and roads made; but it may well be doubted whether owing to this delay bankruptcy may not intervene, and inflict more injury than could be compensated for by any subsequent gain that might be obtained in the terms of the leases; and the country would in the meantime have lost for several years the great advantages which the advancement of commercial enterprise would afford in the development of the wealth and prosperity of the Empire.

Before concluding our Report it may be well that we should briefly recapitulate the principal remedies which we have suggested for the defects of the Turkish financial system, and for the difficulties to which they have given rise.

We propose then :—

The immediate enlargement of the functions and responsibility of the Minister of Finance, and the reconstruction of his Department in the manner and to the extent which we have described, together with strict regulations for the limitation of the power possessed by the different Departments over the expenditure of public money, and provision for the regular annual publication of the estimates and accounts;

The reorganization of the "*Conseil Suprême du Trésor*" by the nomination of members in the place of those who have left it, an addition to the number of its European members, and its recognition and maintenance as an important consultative body, actually responsible for the discharge of the duties entrusted to it, which should be such as we have explained;

The thorough revision of the system under which the public money is accounted

for and recorded, and the adoption of the remedies which we have specified, including the creation of an Audit Office for the examination and control of the public accounts, with the aid of a staff of public accountants procured from abroad for that purpose.

With regard to the expenditure, we recommend a reorganization of the public Departments, and of the Naval and Military Services, including the classification of the public servants, a reduction in their number, and a revised scale of salaries and pay; and that means should be taken to render possible the purchase of articles required by the Government at short and fixed dates, instead of at long and uncertain credit.

In order to provide for the immediate equalization of the revenue and expenditure, and to obtain the surplus necessary for enabling the Government to deal with its existing embarrassments, we propose:—

The imposition of a tax in the nature of the “*verghi*” upon the Capital;

A tax on domestic servants;

An arrangement for the optional conversion of “*vakouf*” property into “*mulk*” (freehold), or, if this is not possible, for its transmission, at the option of the holder, to near relations in default of direct heirs;

The adoption, if on consideration it should appear expedient, of a similar course with regard to “*tapou*” property;

Certain changes in the duties on tobacco;

And an extension of the incidence of the stamp duties, with provision for their more effectual collection.

With a view to the gradual increase of the national resources, so as ultimately to provide a revenue amply sufficient for all the requirements of the State, we recommend, in addition to the improvements which have already been made respecting the collection of the revenue, and the arrangements with foreign Governments with regard to the export and import duties,—

That measures should be adopted for the re-adjustment of the “*verghi*,” as well as of the “*rachat militaire*;”

That steps should be taken for the gradual substitution, so far as is possible, of direct collection for “*farming*,” as respects the whole of the revenue;

That mines, forests, and other public property should be turned to account, by inviting the free competition of foreign as well as native enterprise, by the substitution of long for annual leases, or by sale in cases where it appears the more profitable course; and especially by allowing foreigners to hold property in their own right, in return for proper reciprocal concessions by foreign Governments;

That interference with the labour of the peasantry by landholders, and with trade and industry by corporations, should cease; and above all, that every effort should be made by the Government to establish roads, and generally to facilitate mercantile traffic and postal intercourse throughout the Empire.

With respect to the debt, we recommend that an endeavour should be made at once to raise the credit of Turkey by the adoption of immediate and energetic measures of financial reform, and by securing a surplus of income over expenditure; that if a loan cannot be obtained to meet the pressing financial difficulties of the State, and to reduce and limit the amount of inconvertible paper, an attempt should be made, by the creation of a stock bearing a high rate of interest, with the best guarantees that can be given for its due payment, to consolidate the various minor classes of Turkish securities, to induce merchants and others to take this stock in payment of their claims, and holders of “*caimé*” to convert it into stock at a reasonable rate; and that money should be raised under contracts for leasing mines and Crown properties, to assist in giving effect to these measures.

We also propose the establishment of a National Bank on a sound basis, with branches in the Provinces, through means of which the financial operations of the Government could be best conducted, and its pecuniary transactions facilitated.

Administrative and Executive improvements of less importance are referred to in the Report; and many others naturally suggest themselves, which have not been touched upon owing to the fear of encumbering more important subjects with too much detail. The principal reforms once effected will, if they are conducted by able and intelligent officers, naturally be followed by the minor changes to which we refer.

It only remains for us to express our confident hope that the Porte will, without further delay, by a prompt, systematic, and comprehensive measure of reform, avail itself of the ample means at its disposal for the re-establishment of its credit and the permanent improvement of its financial condition. The case with which it has to deal is not the hopeless one of a tax-imposing power stretched to its utmost limit, and yet inadequate to

meet the demands of a large and inevitable expenditure; but simply of financial disorder, caused chiefly by inattention to the ordinary rules of political economy and fiscal administration. With a taxation, if it were duly adjusted, extremely light; a system of government which, even if made thoroughly efficient in all its branches, would be comparatively inexpensive; and a national debt (including under the term every kind of liability) which is less than 42,000,000*l.* sterling, we cannot believe that the Empire will be permitted any longer to remain in a condition bordering upon insolvency. We have no sufficient reason to suppose that the promise of the new reign will be unfulfilled, or that the Turkish Government, rather than adopt a few simple, obvious, and, with ordinary firmness and prudence, easily feasible reforms, will quietly allow the prevalent predictions of national disaster and decadence to be accomplished.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

M. H. FOSTER.
HOBART.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

THE "BRITISH STAR" NEWSPAPER.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1862.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

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Correspondence respecting the "British Star" Newspaper.

No. 1.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Tilley.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 19, 1862.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you a copy of a telegram* from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that the Turkish Government has requested him to prevent the distribution by the British Post Office at Constantinople of a Greek journal called the "British Star," which is published in London; and I am to request that you will move the Postmaster-General to inform Earl Russell whether he can do anything to meet the wishes of the Porte, and whether the Post Office ever interferes in such cases.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 2.

Mr. Tilley to Mr. Hammond.—(Received April 22.)

Sir,

General Post Office, April 21, 1862.

I HAVE laid before the Postmaster-General your letter of the 19th instant, inclosing a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in which a request is conveyed, on behalf of the Turkish Government, that a Greek newspaper published in London, and called the "British Star," may not be distributed by means of the British Post Office in Constantinople, such newspaper, as it is alleged, inciting to revolt against the Government and laws of Turkey.

You request that Earl Russell may be informed whether anything can be done to meet the wishes of the Porte, and whether the Post Office ever interferes in such cases.

In reply, I am directed to state, for the information of Earl Russell, that the circumstances of this application are peculiar, and, so far as the Postmaster-General is aware, without precedent.

In almost every other foreign country the Post Office is maintained exclusively by the Local Government, and is, of course, bound to see that, in all respects, the laws of the country are complied with.

Where Postal Conventions exist, such Conventions generally contain a clause stipulating that each country shall have the right of refusing to deliver printed papers the importation of which may be prohibited by the laws or regulations of the country to which they are transmitted. But in Turkey, several foreign Governments have been allowed to establish Post Offices, and, acting upon this permission, a British Post Office has been set up at Constantinople, and a sealed mail despatched weekly from this country, is opened, and the contents distributed directly from that Office.

The Postmaster-General considers, however, that it would not be acting fairly towards the Turkish Government to insist upon delivering from the British Post Office newspapers to which that Government could justly take exception, for reasons such as those given in the telegram from Sir Henry Bulwer, and he is prepared, with the sanction of Earl Russell, to instruct the British Postmaster at Constantinople to stop the papers in question (so far as this can be done, without seriously delaying the distribution of the mail), and to hand them over to an officer appointed by the Porte to receive them.

* See No. 4.

At the same time, the Postmaster-General directs me to observe that the compilers of the paper will, probably, when they find that it cannot be sent through the British Post Office, take steps for forwarding it either through the French or Austrian Post Offices in Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. TILLEY.

No. 3.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Tilley.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1862.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to state to you, for the information of the Postmaster-General, that he has consulted the Law Advisers of the Crown on the question treated in your letter of the 21st instant, as to preventing the distribution by the British Post Office at Constantinople of a Greek journal published in London, called the "British Star," the tendency of which, as alleged by the Porte, is to incite revolt against the Government and laws of Turkey.

I am to state to you that the setting up and existence of a British Post Office at Constantinople being, as Lord Russell understands, a matter of mere "permission" on the part of the Ottoman Government, and not of Treaty stipulation, the rights, if such they can be called, both of the British Government and of British subjects in that respect are of a very precarious character, and very far from such as can be insisted on against the reasonable wishes of the Porte.

Lord Russell, therefore, considers that the Postmaster-General will be perfectly justified, under the circumstances of the case, in directing the British Postmaster at Constantinople to stop the newspaper called the "British Star." The persons transmitting such paper must be taken to have known the footing of the British Post Office Establishment at Constantinople, and the consequent risk to which the delivery of the particular paper was or might be subject; and Her Majesty's Government cannot, it appears to Lord Russell, urge any fair complaint against the request of the Porte that the paper should not be distributed.

Lord Russell considers that the newspaper in question should be merely "stopped," and he does not think that the Turkish Government could in reason or in law insist on the copies of the said paper being delivered to their officers. His Lordship is further of opinion that the parties concerned in the "British Star" should be informed by the Post Office of the directions given on this subject to the British Postmaster at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 4.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received April 30.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 18, 1862.

WITH reference to the telegram I addressed to your Lordship this day, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note from the Porte, requesting me to direct the British Post Office here not to distribute any numbers of a Greek journal published in London, called the "British Star," arriving at Constantinople through that channel.

The reason assigned for this request is, that the paper in question is not only systematically hostile to this Government, but that latterly it has instigated its readers to rebel against the Sultan's authority and the laws of the Empire.

It is very probable that the refusal of the British Post Office to assist in the circulation of this paper may have but little effect in preventing its ultimate dissemination; but I do not think that the toleration by the Turkish Government of foreign Post Offices, not under its own control, should be abused for the purpose of distributing newspapers printed abroad, which the authorities consider (whether wisely or not is no affair of ours) to be of a seditious or dangerous tendency.

If, therefore, your Lordship should take the same view of this application, I would beg to suggest that the Director of the British Post Office be instructed by the Postmaster-General to withhold all the copies of the "British Star" which may henceforth be

sent through our closed mail, and that the same may be handed over to the Turkish authorities, or returned to England, as may be thought most expedient.

I have, &c.
For Sir H. Bulwer,
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Aali Pasha to Sir H. Bulwer.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Le 17 Avril, 1862.

SOUS le titre de "l'Etoile Britannique" il se publie à Londres, en langue Grecque, un journal illustré qui, par la modicité de son prix, a un grand nombre d'abonnés en Turquie. Il y arrive par les bateaux-à-vapeur des Messageries Impériales, qui en remettent les numéros aux postes Anglaises, où la distribution en est faite.

Depuis longtemps déjà, la Sublime Porte avait dû fixer son attention sur ce journal, dont la critique des actes du Gouvernement Impérial a été constamment injuste et violente. Aujourd'hui "l'Etoile Britannique" va plus loin encore; elle fait appel aux plus mauvaises passions de ses lecteurs, et elle s'efforce de les pousser à la révolte contre l'autorité Impériale et les lois du pays.

La Sublime Porte manquerait à ses devoirs si elle tolérait davantage une pareille conduite, et c'est pour ce motif que je m'adresse à vos sentiments de justice et d'équité afin qu'il vous plaise de donner le plutôt possible tels ordres qu'il conviendra à votre Excellence pour que ce journal ne soit plus distribué dans l'Empire par les postes Anglaises.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AALI.

No. 5.

Earl Russell to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1862.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 18th instant, and to your despatch received this day, respecting the request made to you by the Porte that the British Post Office at Constantinople should not distribute a Greek journal published in London, called the "British Star," on the ground that it holds language calculated to incite revolt against the Government and laws of Turkey, I transmit to you a copy of a letter which I have caused to be addressed to the General Post Office, by which you will learn that Her Majesty's Government have directed that the distribution of this paper should be "stopped" by the British Postmaster at Constantinople, but that the copies should not be delivered up to the Turkish authorities; and I have to instruct you to inform the Porte of the course taken in this matter.

I have to add, for your own information, that the obvious advantage of merely withholding the papers will be, that no means of proof or accusation against particular individuals to whom such papers might happen to be addressed would thus be furnished.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 6.

Mr. Xeno to Earl Russell.—(Received May 10.)

My Lord,

Petersham Lodge, Richmond, May 8, 1862,

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 3rd instant, a letter from the General Post Office, from which I learn that the Postmaster-General has, with your Lordship's authority, forwarded instructions to the British Postmaster at Constantinople, to return all copies of my paper "*Ἡ Βρεταννὸς Ἀστὴρ*" to England, and to allow none of them to be distributed through the agency of the British Post-office in Turkey. The reason assigned for this is that articles have appeared in the "*Βρεταννὸν Ἀστέρα*," inciting the inhabitants of Turkey to revolt against the laws and government the country.

Now, my Lord, with all due submission to your Lordship, I beg leave to say, that

no articles of such a character have ever appeared in my paper. A reference to this year's file of the "*Βρετταννοῦ Ἀστέρος*" will prove to your Lordship that what I assert is the fact, and that in my remarks on Turkish affairs, I have been much less severe than the most Conservative papers in Europe. The "*Βρετταννὸς Ἀστὴρ*" was established by me two years, with the intention of making my compatriots in the East acquainted with European civilization, and of elevating them as much as possible in the social scale. So far from writing articles inciting the inhabitants of Turkey to revolt, I have always been a warm admirer of the Hatti-Houmayoun, thereby gaining for myself the unenviable title of "Philo-Turk" from the Press of free Greece.

My paper has been very often in opposition to the Government of King Otho, and has frequently pointed out the abuses that exist in Greece. It is this opposition, I fear, my Lord, that has caused the Government of the Sultan to apply to that of England to prevent the circulation of the "*Βρετταννοῦ Ἀστέρος*" in Turkey; for, a short time since, M. Barotsi, the Dragoman of the Greek Legation at Constantinople, meeting my father, who is my agent in that capital, told him that as I persisted in my opposition to the Government of King Otho, he, Barotsi, would use all his influence with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs in order to make him prevent the entry of my paper into the dominions of the Sultan.

Should your Lordship, after what I have stated, still not feel justified in removing the prohibition placed on the "*Βρετταννὸν Ἀστέρα*," I would beg to propose to your Lordship that, my paper being divided into sections, one literary and scientific, and the other political, that the former be allowed to pass through the British Post Office, pending the settlement of this affair. I have been at very considerable expense in preparing woodcuts, &c., illustrative of the International Exhibition, and all this expense will, in a great measure, be thrown away if I am prevented from sending my paper into Turkey. The Greek population also of that country will be deprived of any knowledge of this great Exhibition of International Industry, and as, independent of all political considerations, the "*Βρετταννὸς Ἀστὴρ*" has been the chief literary and scientific instructor of my compatriots in the Ottoman Empire, I trust that your Lordship will see fit to grant my petition.

I forward for your Lordship's information a complete file of the "*Βρετταννοῦ Ἀστέρος*" for this year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEFANOS XENO.

No. 7.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Xeno.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 12, 1862.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, in which, after adverting to the fact that the British Postmaster at Constantinople has been ordered not to distribute the newspaper called the "British Star," you request that the literary and scientific section of that journal may be allowed to pass through the British Post Office; and I am state to you, in reply, that Lord Russell cannot comply with your request.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 8.

Mr. Xeno to Earl Russell.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord,

Petersham Lodge, Richmond, May 13, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of yesterday's date, in which your Lordship refuses to accede to my request that the literary and scientific section of my paper may be allowed to pass through the British Post Office at Constantinople.

As this refusal amounts almost to a suspension of the "*Βρετταννοῦ Ἀστέρος*," may I venture to request your Lordship's reasons for not granting my request?

I have, &c.

(Signed) STEFANOS XENO.

No. 9.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Xeno.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 16, 1862.

I AM directed by Earl Russell to state to you, in reply to your letter of the 13th instant, that the political character of the newspaper called the "British Star" is sufficient to justify Her Majesty's Government in prohibiting its distribution by the British Post-office at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 10.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Xeno.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 24, 1862.

LORD RUSSELL has directed me to say that as you do not seem satisfied with the explanations given to you in my letter of May 16, he has no objection to state more fully the reasons which influenced his decision of the 12th of May.

The character of your journal is political; the Turkish Government considering the paper (whether wisely or unwisely is not the affair of Her Majesty's Government) to be of a seditious and dangerous tendency, desired that it might not have the benefit and privilege of being distributed by the British Post Office.

With this request Her Majesty's Government could not refuse to comply.

You then proposed that the literary and scientific portion of that journal might be allowed to pass through the British Post Office.

But as the character of your journal was considered by the Porte to be of a seditious and dangerous tendency, it would have been necessary to guarantee to the Turkish Government that the portion distributed by the British Post Office was purely literary and scientific, with no mixture of political comment. In order to do this, it would have been necessary that the Foreign Office should either have become responsible for your faithful adherence to your engagement, or that the Foreign Office should have exercised a censorship over your paper, and expunged all articles of a political character. Lord Russell not being inclined either to be responsible for your adherence to your promise, or to become the censor of your journal, was obliged to decline compliance with your request.

You have your remedy by sending your journal through any other Post Office, except the closed mail of the British Government, in the same way that British journals are sent to Paris, St. Petersburg, and Vienna, through the French, Russian, and Austrian Post Offices.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

CORRESPONDENCE respecting the "British
Star" Newspaper.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. 1862.*

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

APPLICATIONS

FOR

TRIAL BY JURY IN CIVIL CASES

IN

TURKEY.

*Presented to the House of Commons by Command of Her Majesty, in pursuance of their
Address dated July 7, 1862.*

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

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for—

“Copies of any Memorials received at the Foreign Office praying for the Establishment of Trial by Jury for British Subjects in Turkey; and of any Reports thereon by the Judge of the Consular Court or the British Ambassador at Constantinople:

“And, for Copies of, or Extracts from, any Correspondence on the subject between the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and our Ambassador, Consuls, or Vice-Consuls in Turkey.”

No. 1.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received January .)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 8, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Petition, signed by the principal British residents here, humbly praying Her Majesty the Queen in Council to be graciously pleased to confer on parties to a Civil suit in the Supreme Consular Court here, the right of demanding a trial by a jury of six British subjects, as is already provided for by Order in Council in criminal cases.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Petition.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

May it please your Majesty,

WE, the undersigned faithful subjects of your Majesty resident at Constantinople, beg most respectfully to approach your Throne, and to humbly pray that your Most Excellent Majesty in Council will be graciously pleased to cause the Order promulgated by your Most Excellent Majesty in Council on the 27th day of August, 1860, for the regulation of Consular jurisdiction in the dominions of the Sublime Ottoman Porte, to be amended.

Your petitioners beg respectfully to submit to your Most Excellent Majesty in Council, that, before and since the promulgation of such Order, various causes, of great importance to the British community in general, have been adjudged in your Majesty's Supreme Consular Court of the Levant, established here in Constantinople in 1857, and among them many of a commercial nature, and also actions of libel—causes which the Constitution of our country has most wisely entrusted to the decision of a jury, directed by a Judge as to points of pure law, but in which a knowledge of local circumstances, of the usage of merchants, and the expression of the general feeling of the community, would reconcile all concerned to the verdict, would relieve the Judge from great responsibility, and render the final result of the discussion in Court more satisfactory to the public.

We, therefore, your most faithful subjects resident within the Consular jurisdiction of Constantinople, humbly pray that your Most Excellent Majesty in Council will be graciously pleased to cause the before-mentioned Order in Council to be amended by the addition of some provision conferring the right on either party to a Civil suit in your Majesty's Supreme Consular Court to demand the trial by a jury of six British subjects, as is provided by the said Order for the trial of criminal cases.

And your petitioners will ever faithfully pray, &c.

Your Majesty's most faithful subjects,

A. A. Fry.

Hy. Lamb.

T. H. Glover.

Thos. Junor.

E. H. Tinney.

A. Young, R.N.

T. L. Harris.

P. Pouteau, Kt.

H. Ceard.

J. A. Watson.

James Robertson.

Wm. Kerr.

Henry John Knapp (Clerk).
 John Ryan.
 A. Inaunoff.
 James Herdman.
 John Lowe.
 William Walker.
 Henry Benwell.
 John Wetherilt.
 Thos. Ellis.
 Walter Stock.
 G. Belcher.
 George Irving.
 Samuel Roper.
 William Dyke.
 George Ellis.
 George Redwood.
 George Jarvis.
 Alexander Mc Gregor.
 Dougald Mc Coll.
 Alexander Thomson.
 Hiram Pollitt.
 Thos. Roberts.
 Robert Thomson.
 Alexander Ramsay.
 Wm. Pearse.
 Wm. Heath.
 Wm. Ewing.
 Mark Cockle.
 D. H. Krinks.
 George Thomas.
 Henry Knight.
 A. C. Orr.
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Βαρναβας Αργυρατος.
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 John Evans.
 D. C. Orr.
 George Caie.
 George Ellis, senior.
 George Ellis, junior.
 Thomas Ellis.
 James Ellis.
 J. W. Hale.
 Wm. Hislop.
 James Kinnach.
 Charles Thompson.
 William Pearson.
 George Madrell.

William Thomson.
 William Clack.
 Thomas Payge.
 Thomas Boanum.
 Thomas Parry.
 James O'Connor.
 James Millingen.
 John Williams.
 Dionisio Zerbino.
 G. Walsamache.
 Henry Newbolt.
 Joseph Nadin.
 Z. Marchand.
 Mario. Marchand.
 Henry Wright.
 Richard Routh.
 J. H. Charnaud.
 William Gillam.
 J. Swanfitt.
 Edwd. Allan.
 Edw. Grace.
 William Dunn.
 L. A. Mackenzie.
 T. N. Black.
 T. N. Black, jun.
 Henry Thomas.
 Edw. Latutaine.
 James Glaysher.
 Alfred Wm. Mountain.
 Joseph Phillips.
 Joseph Milward.
 Hiram Haguy.
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 Peter Mc Ewan.
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 James Wishart.
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 John Campbell.
 W. H. Cross.
 Alexr. Niven.
 James Lindsay.
 Robert Hall.
 Nichols. Gibson.
 George Lowe.
 W. Costello.
 George Sutherland.
 Christopher Young.
 Thomas Smith.
 Robert Gronous.
 George Stamp.
 Alfred Banks.
 J. H. Glascott, M.R.C.S., Esq.
 John Harris.
 Robert Reid.
 A. Macy.
 James Harris.
 Joseph Mark Ford.
 John Anderson.
 Thomas Sinclair.
 Alex. Cleland.
 John Thistlethwate.

W. A. Millar.
 John Smorfitt.
 Henry M. Wills.
 C. Davis.
 J. R. Willson.
 Frederic Gorgenson.
 Thomas Oakley.
 James Wright, senr.
 Thomas Harley.
 William Langley.
 A. Morrison, junr.
 X. Σ. *Ιρατος*.
 Giuseppe Samit.
 James De Ritter.
 Francesco Girti.
 Alexr. Gillespie.
 H. S. Bone.
 T. R. Remnison.
 J. G. Wren.
 Wm. Easson.
 Thos. Couch.
 Charles Morriss.
 Henry Graves.
 John Wade.
 George Bigg.
 William Fordyce.
 James Howard.
 William W. Jacobs.
 Thomas Anderson.
 Peter Dixon.
 Thomas Swan.
 John Rowell.
 V. C. and W. Coan.
 James M. Tapps.
 R. F. Foote, M.D.
 E. Brackett.
 J. G. Mc Carthy.
 Edward Charles Silly.
 John Stephen Casey.
 Fredk. Miller.
 Chas. J. Grace.
 W. Henry Ward.
 Wm. Wood.
 Geo. B. Marshan.
 Wm. Campion.
 Marco. Sta. Marchand.
 T. W. Smythe.
 A. Slade.
 Dl. Edwards.
 John Mc Kendrick.
 Robert Andrews.
 Joseph Stamp.
 William Wright.
 William Adhover.
 Reuben H. Waller.
 John Williams.
 James Blair.
 Benjamin Rose.
 Thos. G. H. Peach.
 John Thompson.

James Carlyle.
 Benjamin Dyke.
 Henry Williams.
 George Brown.
 Robert Spence.
 Robert Mac Gill.
 John Stoten.
 David Hague.
 Thomas Blair.
 Hugh Mc Alpin.
 Samuel Mc William.
 William Kuthel.
 Henry Dyke.
 William Clansay.
 John Mc Dowall.
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 William Tomkins.
 William Nix.
 Thos. Edmond.
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 John Pratt.
 George Elliott.
 David Wallen.
 Wm. Jew.
 Matthew Bridges.
 James Crawford.
 William Cuthell.
 William Davis.
 Geo. Payge.
 C. Brown.
 G. O'Connor.
 A. R. Churchill.
 Geo. Lannier.
 Alexander Thomson, A.M.
 Alfred C. Laughton.
 R. T. Allan.
 Robert A. Carleton.
 S. Rose.
 W. Mc Carthy.

No. 2.

Earl Russell to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 25, 1862.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 8th instant, inclosing a petition from the British residents at Constantinople, praying that the existing right of demanding trials by a jury of six British subjects in criminal cases may be extended to parties having civil suits in the Supreme Consular Court; and I have to instruct your Excellency to communicate with Mr. Hornby on this subject, and then report to me your opinion on the practicability of the measure in question.

An instruction on this subject has been addressed to Mr. Hornby, of which I inclose a copy.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 3.

Earl Russell to Mr. Hornby.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 25, 1862.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has forwarded to me a Memorial very numerously signed by British residents at Constantinople, praying that Jury trials may be allowed in civil cases before the Consular Court at Constantinople.

I have directed Sir H. Bulwer to communicate with you on the subject, and to report his own opinion on the expediency of complying with the prayer of the Memorial.

If you should jointly or severally be of opinion that it would be desirable and practicable to do so, I should wish you to frame the draft of an Order in Council for carrying out the plans. Provision must be made in such draft for striking and summoning juries, and the attendance on juries must be made compulsory.

I should wish you also to consider whether the system, if adopted at Constantinople, might be extended to other places, and specifically Smyrna and Alexandria.

When I shall have received your report I will refer the matter to the consideration of the Law Officers of the Crown.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 4.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received March 29.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, March 19, 1862.

YOUR Lordship has asked me my opinion as to the institution of a jury at this place and at Smyrna, and told me to consult with Sir E. Hornby on the subject. I have spoken to Sir E. Hornby, who, without expressing any hostility to the proposition, deems it would not be found practicable on account of the class and number of English residents.

I have always doubted whether what suited a British community in a British territory, with a population composed of British subjects, and likely to be daily and constantly influenced in habits, opinions, and business, by British feelings and influences, could be equally adapted to a certain number of Englishmen, the greatest part merely scattered temporarily throughout a foreign country, surrounded by different populations with whom they are constantly mixing, and whose habits and laws are totally different from those of England.

We have not in these two cases the same people to apply a system to, nor the same instruments to carry out a system.

I have always, then, had misgivings as to whether such a Court as now constituted would be able to work out its way fully and satisfactorily, on the principle of considering Englishmen here precisely as if they were Englishmen in a British settlement; but I think, having adopted the principle, we must adopt the consequences, as the only means of properly maintaining it.

To say that the community at Constantinople does not furnish a jury, is, in my

opinion, to say that it does not admit of such a Court as that established here. The one should go with the other.

Our ancestors, with a rare wisdom, established the jury, not as the best means perhaps of administering the law, but as the best means of preventing a tyranny as great as that of any other, viz., the tyranny of lawyers. In a small community, without strong public opinion, this control is especially necessary.

At present the exceptions for reference home are so few, that it may almost be said that the property and character of any Englishman in the East depends upon the fiat of an individual; and though I have the very highest opinion of Sir E. Hornby, I think this responsibility and this power is too great to be reposed in any one individual, however I may estimate his character or capacity.

Without some control a Judge in this position must necessarily either subject the whole community to his will and pleasure, in which case his authority would degenerate (such I fear is the imperfection attendant on all unchecked authority) into an abuse, or it would provoke very hostile feelings, and ultimate resistance. Either case would be fatal to the institution we are trying to establish. My opinion, then, is, that where a Judge is appointed, there should be the faculty of requiring a jury.

It does not follow that such jury would be constantly or even often appealed to, but the power of appealing to it would exist and satisfy.

Sir E. Hornby says that since he has explained the inconveniences to which people would be subjected by a jury, many have changed their opinion. It is, indeed, a fact, proving what I have previously asserted, that people do not like to go against the supposed feeling of an authority so powerful; and, moreover, I fear that if we set strongly before people all the inconveniences of attending to duties they would not unfrequently shrink from their performance. A General who painted to his soldiers the probability of their having their heads carried off by a cannon-ball, or of their bodies being pierced by a bayonet, would give little encouragement to valour, and much to desertion.

Where a duty exists we should rather, as it seems to me, invite people to fulfil it, than warn them of the disadvantages that may attend doing so. But at all events, whether there is a change or not in public sentiment here in reference Sir E. Hornby's remarks, it leaves my own sentiments unchanged.

I ought to add that the ideas I now express have always been held by me, and are not expressed for the first time on this occasion. I stated them, as I state them now, thirty years ago in moving for trial by jury in New South Wales.

It does not follow that they may not be exaggerated. No one is better able to judge of this than your Lordship, but I have thought it but just and fair to myself and to you to state them honestly and frankly such as they are.

No. 5.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 21, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, a Memorial addressed to me by the principal British residents at Smyrna, praying that trial by jury may be extended to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

Inclosure in No. 5.

The British Residents at Smyrna to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Smyrna, March 5, 1862.

WE have heard with great expectation that the Right Honourable Earl Russell has officially applied for your Excellency's opinion on the extension of trial by jury among the English communities in Turkey, in civil and criminal cases, and in trials for libel, and for the arbitrary offences created by the new rules and regulations of the Supreme Court.

For this protection several applications have been made, and the real feeling of the communities with regard to it cannot be doubted. Upon your Excellency's good feeling, as an old and tried friend of liberty, we confidently rely, as well as upon that kindly sympathy which has led you to unite with us in our social and literary gatherings, and in

our efforts to maintain our national associations; and to you we confidently appeal as the head of our communities and protector of our rights, as a friend and a fellow-countryman, to relieve us from the disabilities and disgrace which now weigh upon us, and to obtain for us the enjoyment of our birthright as Englishmen.

We remain, &c.

C. Whittall.
J. Wade.
C. W. Woodfall.
J. Crick.
A. Routh.
Algernon Kyan.
Charles E. Browning.
A. V. Lawson.
Wm. Wright.
William P. K. Lewis.
Edward Roper.
Saml. H. Tapps.
Charles Simes.
Henry Simes.
J. W. Stevens.
George Fyfe.
Duncan Forbes.
R. C. Terry.
S. Edwards.
James Rees.
Fred. Charnaud.
Harry George.
Francis Joly.
C. Whittall, Nephew.
Fredk. Turrell.
Wm. Maltass.
J. Kininha.
John Hönircher.
John H. Hutchinson.
John Gardner.
Hyde Clarke.
Fredk. Miller.
Thos J. Farley.
C. Whittall, Jr.
Thos. B. Rees.
C. Hadkinson.
A. Edwards.
Charles Wood.
J. B. Paterson.
Edward Purser.
Robt. Hadkinson.

Jas. Whittall.
Edwd. Hadkinson.
E. Edwards.
E. St. L. Johnson.
George Purdie.
Ch. Whittall, Junr.
James Wm. Kealy.
James Steven.
Jas. Hadkinson.
Geo. Watkins.
Maurice Wolff.
Edwin Godfrey Joly.
Wm. Chasseaud, M.D.
Fred. Peelwed.
Alfred J. Lawson.
William A. Maltass.
W. B. Tristram.
A. Perkins.
P. R. Goatz.
Pro John Gout,
P. R. Goatz.
Leonard Hutchinson.
E. F. Croom.
H. J. Purdie.
H. Schnell.
Nelson Schnell.
W. Griffitt.
J. Jones.
E. Jones.
S. Richard Shepherd.
E. St. L. Johnson.
Sidney W. Maltass.
R. Barker.
W. C. Barkshire.
John Dutton.
Charles R. Dallas.
Nelson P. Browning.
Donald B. Bain.
James F. Tuson.
Edward A. Drew.

No. 6.

Sir E. Hornby to Earl Russell.—(Received April 12.)

(Extract.)

Supreme Consular Court, Constantinople, March 31, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's consideration a Memorandum which I have drawn up on the subject of the introduction of trial by jury in civil cases into the Consular Courts of the Levant.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Memorandum by Sir E. Hornby on the Introduction of Trial by Jury in Civil Cases in the Consular Courts of the Levant.

IN considering whether it would be advisable, or even practicable, to introduce the system of trial by jury in civil cases into our Consular Courts in the Levant, the following

points arise: the abstract question of the desirability of adopting the jury system in any purely British community being taken for granted.

1st. Has the society into which it is proposed to introduce this system any peculiarities which would render its adoption adverse to the ends of justice?

2nd. To what class of cases can it be applied?

3rd. Can a sufficient jury panel be obtained?

The entire question must be governed by the reply to this last point. It will be, therefore, convenient to discuss it at once.

After a careful examination of the census of 1861, I find that a panel of fit and proper persons might be struck amounting to about 220 persons; but of this number 120 are engineers in the employment of the Turkish Government, and of the different native and foreign steam-boat companies, *i.e.*, Austrian Lloyd's, Messagerie Impériale, Chirket-Hairé, Arsenal Line, tug boats, Government steam-vessels of war, &c. Of this number also, twelve are merchant captains in command of vessels engaged in the coasting trade; and from the total of 220, at least 5 per cent. must be further deducted in respect of persons who have left Constantinople, and who have died since the census was made out. We must also exclude those incapacitated by age and infirmity. A great many more English names appear in the census than the number I have mentioned, but of these many are day-labourers, "loafers" engaged in loading and unloading vessels, domestic servants, professional men, and persons in the employment of the British Government. Moreover, the census includes all such English persons who were at Constantinople on the particular day when it was taken. Thus it includes a number of seamen in the Sailors' Home, patients in the hospital, and prisoners in the jail. Now the English population can hardly be called a resident population, for a proportion of it are constantly moving about to the different sea-ports in the Levant engaged in their commercial pursuits, and thus the names of many persons appear who properly belong to Smyrna, Salonica, Beyrout, Alexandria, &c. I mention these facts to show that the panel can hardly be said to represent the English population carrying on trade in Constantinople.

The proposed panel then of 220 jurors, includes 120 engineers; and the first question that arises is, are these men to be placed on the panel? They are all under contract with their employers, and while I do not think the Turkish Government would like them to be taken from their work, I am quite certain that the different steam-packet companies would refuse to employ them if they absented themselves from their work to attend the Court.

It must be remembered also that the principal burden of attendance on juries would fall on this class, in the same proportion, in fact, as they stand numerically to the rest of the English community, namely, as 120 to 96. Moreover, this class are seldom if ever engaged in litigation before the Court. To put these men on the panel would be to involve the Court in constant discussions with the Government and the steam-boat companies; while an immense amount of time would be taken up in hearing excuses for non-attendance, and on applications for the remittance of fines. In short, I am convinced that we should have well-founded objections advanced on the part of the Turkish Government and of the steam-packet companies, because, as I have stated, it is quite clear that the principal burden of attendance would fall on these engineers; and the men themselves would complain bitterly of losing their day's pay for no adequate advantage to themselves or the class to which they belong. If, then, the engineers are to be omitted from the panel, it is at once reduced to seventy or eighty persons.

Now to form a jury even of six persons, it will be necessary to summon at least twelve; and considering that in a small community, where most persons are more or less connected by family or business ties one with the other, the right of challenge is pretty sure to be actively exercised, it will in all probability become necessary to summon more than twelve, perhaps eighteen, in order to secure a jury of six.

For the same reason it will be necessary to summon a separate jury in each case; so that for one day in each week when three cases are entered to be tried by a jury, thirty-six, and perhaps more out of the whole panel, of say eighty, will have to be summoned. Should there happen to be six cases in one week, the whole panel must attend, and this not on one occasion only, inasmuch as the Court sits twice in each week during ten months out of twelve. Some idea of the burden which the community will have to support may be formed from these facts.

It may, however, be said in reply, that juries will be seldom asked for. Whether this will be so or not, remains to be seen; but in the face of the arguments of those who are supporting the agitation of the question, the rarity of the desire on the part of the public must not be assumed. On the contrary, it is fair to presume that trial by jury is required, and will be demanded by one side or the other in a large number of cases. We

must, therefore, estimate the means at hand of providing for the want on the assumption that juries will be the rule and not the exception. Otherwise we may find ourselves in the position of having adopted a system, without the practical means of carrying it into effect.

I now return to the first point, viz., Has the society into which it is proposed to introduce the system of trial by jury any peculiarities which would render its adoption adverse to the ends of justice?

If the panel be small, family and business connection, community of interest, and a variety of other influences, operate to render a system of trial by jury a very doubtful experiment.

Those cases in which a jury would be demanded would, probably, be those where the prejudices of a community were in strong operation, where the matter which should be exclusively considered before an indifferent tribunal has been canvassed and discussed already by the community, and the dispute embittered by party feeling. This is invariably the case in a small community, and, I apprehend, in most of the cases which the agitators for trial by jury in Constantinople have before their minds, when they proclaim how much it is wanted, would be just such cases as, were they to be tried in England, successful applications would be made to change the venue. In other words, they are those very cases with reference to which the public has already formed an opinion, which they are anxious to express as jurors, but which has been arrived at independently of any evidence that might be adduced on the trial.

In such a state of feeling how is the attendance of jurors to be enforced? If by fine the following results may be expected.

Either party in a case, or even some one interested in its result, will endeavour to secure the attendance on the jury of persons favourable to his interests, or hostile to those of the opposite party. All that he will have to do will be to get a certain number of the persons summoned to attend at the sitting of the Court, and at the same time to acquaint the rest that they need not take the trouble to come, as their services would not be required.

By this means either a partial jury will be nominated, or if both parties have been equally active, a jury consisting half of decided friends and half of decided foes to either litigant will be impanelled, or, lastly, the panel be exhausted by challenges, and no jury at all be obtained that day.

It is difficult to conceive such a result in England; but in a very small community, consisting of individuals engaged in pretty nearly the same business, and all residing, or having their places of business, in one small quarter of the town, literally within a few doors or a street of each other, as is the case at Galata, nothing is easier than to understand the means by which any result of the kind indicated could be obtained.

Supposing, however, these objections to be overcome, we have then to consider the second point, viz., What class of cases should be submitted to a jury? And this must be argued not as between members of the English community only, but as between English, Maltese, and Ionians; for that which is conceded to the English, cannot be withheld from the Maltese and Ionians.

The Maltese community, although numerically large, consists in a very great degree of day-labourers, such as persons employed in the unloading of ships, &c.; so that in all probability there would not be found more than twenty or thirty persons, if so many, who could be placed on the panel. In all cases, therefore, purely between Maltese, the members from which a jury could be chosen, would be extremely small, and I very much doubt whether, when challenges on account of interests, relations, indebtedness, family connection or family feuds, are taken into consideration, it would be possible to form a jury consisting exclusively of Maltese.

The Ionian residents in this capital for jury service are considerably more numerous than the Maltese, perhaps even more numerous than the English; but so intimate on the one hand, and hostile on the other, is the relationship which governs this class, that I think it extremely probable that the whole time of the Court would be taken up in determining the sufficiency of the challenges or exceptions made in each case to those who might be summoned, and this is an evil which I also foresee in all mixed cases.

In the next place under this head arises the question of these mixed cases, which, with those in which foreigners are concerned, constitute the chief portion of the contentious business of the Court. By mixed cases are meant those between English and Ionians, English and Maltese, English and protected subjects, English and foreigners and *vice versâ*, and cases between Ionians and Maltese, &c.

If juries are to consist of five persons, as I am told is suggested in the petition (with a copy of which, by-the-bye, I have not yet been favoured), and the majority are to decide—a principle, I may observe, which is not English, and which strikes at the very root of the

English system of trial by jury—it becomes important to inquire which side is to have the third jurymen. If the jury is to consist of an even number, say six, and unanimity of opinion is essential, then arises the fear that national feeling will so far prevail as to render the obtaining any verdict a matter of extreme doubt.

Juries so constituted will seldom, if ever, agree, and they will have to be discharged, and a re-hearing, with all its attendant expense, before another jury will be the consequence.

Indeed, as a general rule, applications for new trials will be constant, and when the litigiousness of all Eastern communities, no matter their origin, is taken into consideration, the result will be an immense amount of litigation and great expense, loss of time, and increase of ill-feeling which will not be confined to the litigants, but be extended to each individual member of the community.

To this has to be added other inconveniences arising out of variety of languages.

To offer foreigners the alternative of a return to the old system of Mixed Commissions, or the submission of their cases to the final arbitrament of six countrymen of their opponent, would be not only uncourteous, but it would destroy all the good which the new system has promoted, and lower the standard of English justice in the eyes of all classes of the mixed population in the Levant.

But still more important inconveniences suggest themselves, which are aggravated by the limited number of the panel, and the difference of races under the same jurisdiction.

It is seldom, if ever, that a case is presented to the Court in the form in which it ought to be brought. Professional advice is scarce, and such as can be had is, not unfrequently, none of the best; the result is, that adjournments are inevitable, being absolutely necessary to the ends of justice. Moreover, the attendance of witnesses cannot always be enforced. When they are foreigners the Court is powerless; and thus cases are often heard piece-meal, that is, they are adjourned, often once, not unfrequently twice, and sometimes oftener, until the witnesses can attend. Before a Judge, the inconveniences attending such adjournments are comparatively unimportant, but to a jury they would be insupportable, as the same jury would have to be discharged on a part-heard case, and ordered to attend upon a future occasion, the jury being open, in the meantime, to all sorts of influences.

There is yet another point which, among every other which concerns the practicability of the scheme, has escaped the consideration of those who have agitated for "trial by jury;" I mean, the character of the pleadings which is in use in the Consular Courts. Every text-writer lays it down, and every practical lawyer knows, that trial by jury is only feasible when there are distinct issues to decide in the affirmative or negative. The reason why this tribunal has been successful in England in Civil cases is, that by the English procedure distinct issues are necessarily arrived at.

It has been the endeavour of the Supreme Consular Court to cause the pleadings in the suits brought before it to be framed on a scientific model, and in accordance with the English procedure; never, however, insisting upon the mere technicalities. But it must be admitted that the desired result has not been hitherto attained, nor, considering the education and habits of the practitioners in Constantinople, is it likely to be attained. The pleadings generally assume the form of petition and answer, deficient in form, and presenting on their face no distinct issues. This is fatal to the success of the tribunal of a jury here.

The question must also be considered with reference to appeals from the outlying Consular Courts, such as Smyrna and Alexandria. How are they to lie? If, as now, to the Judge of the Supreme Court, is he to review the verdict of the jury of the Court below, or is he to send the case before another jury in the town whence it came, and where it has been discussed and canvassed; or is he to impanel a jury at Constantinople, if the latter is the case, to be tried in accordance with the English procedure?

I have only now enumerated some of the chief objections which occur to me to the adoption of the system of trial by jury in Civil cases. There are others, not less serious, which will inevitably arise when the attempt is made (if, unfortunately, it ever should be made) to provide the means for carrying it out into practice.

Our community is small, each section of it being bound together by intimate business and family connection, who all are more or less engaged in the same pursuits. To limit the jury system to one section would be impracticable, on account of the small number of the members, and the intimacy of the relations existing between them; to extend it to the whole community would be to increase national prejudices and promote discord and discussion.

I believe, moreover, that it would be impossible, in the face of the difficulties arising out of race, language, society, and the peculiar nature of the jurisdiction, to frame an Order

in Council in which provision could be made for the practical working out of the system; and I am perfectly certain that the burden of service upon juries would be found intolerable, even by those who, upon a hasty view of the subject, have petitioned in this behalf, and that any attempt to enforce a due observance of regulations for compelling their attendance would be productive of endless disputes, increased expense to litigants, and general dissatisfaction.

Whether, therefore, I regard the peace of society amongst British subjects here, or the high credit due to a Court of Justice, or (the more important point of all) the administration of equity, I do not hesitate to say, that the introduction of the jury system would be in a high degree detrimental to the real interests of the community, and subversive of the ends of justice.

It requires very little acquaintance with the duties and sentiments of the judicial Bench; to know that the aid of a jury is, by the Judge himself, highly prized, so long as that jury be a competent one, and unswayed by prejudices against which he has to struggle. A jury relieves the Judge of much responsibility, and he feels that, in certain classes of cases, it is *prima facie* a more competent tribunal than himself.

It argues a very small knowledge of the facts to suppose that, either in England or elsewhere, it is natural for a Judge to be jealous of juries. Judges may naturally love power, but, so far as my experience goes, they do not feel that any power they covet would be withdrawn by introducing juries into their Courts, or any position be acquired by abolishing such a tribunal where it now flourishes.

I do not think that suggestions of this kind originate in any accurate knowledge of the judicial character.

But I will not trouble your Lordship by accumulating suggestions of difficulties, which, however, I foresee will inevitably arise if the scheme proposed be attempted to be adopted.

Supreme Consular Court, Constantinople, March 26, 1862.

(Signed)

EDMUND HORNBY.

No. 7.

Sir H. Bulwer to Earl Russell.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord,

Pera, April 28, 1862.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a petition to the Queen in Council for trial by jury, which has been addressed to Her Majesty by the British residents at Smyrna.

I have, &c.

For Sir H. Bulwer,
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Memorial.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

May it please your Majesty,

WE, the Undersigned, subjects of your Majesty, resident in this city of Smyrna, in Asia Minor, most respectfully beg to reiterate the prayer which we took the liberty to address to your Majesty in our previous Petition.

In again soliciting that we may be allowed the privilege of trial by jury in civil cases, a privilege which, if not the birthright, is the pride and boast of all Englishmen, we are much more than ever impressed with the conviction that the cause of justice would be promoted by the concession we ask for.

Permit us to remark, and with all due respect, that if in England your Majesty's Judges of your superior Courts, although conversant with the well-regulated mode in which business is conducted there, are not permitted to be the arbiters both of fact and law, how much more is this limitation of the power of functionaries expedient in a country like this, where we have a mercantile community made up from nearly every nation of the East and West, each one insisting to be governed according to Treaty by its own laws, and where, as a consequence, a complicated system of business has grown up, to grapple with which, and to appreciate the peculiarities arising therefrom, a jury of respectable and

intelligent men, possessed of local experience, becomes an indispensable institution for the proper administration of justice.

We therefore most earnestly entreat your Majesty to direct that the Order in Council of the 27th August, 1860, may be so modified as to extend to us the privilege now sought for; and in duty bound, we shall ever pray.

Smyrna, December 20, 1861.

(Signed) J. B. Paterson.
Thos. B. Rees.
Frederick Turrell.
Charles Wood.
John Crick.

(Signed) John Hönircher.
James F. Hanson.
James Wm. Kealy.
James Rees.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Memorial.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

May it please your Majesty,

WE, the Undersigned, residents in Smyrna, in Asia Minor in Turkey, beg most respectfully that your Majesty in Council will be pleased to direct that our birthright as Englishmen to have the privilege of a jury be accorded to us by the amendment of the Order in Council of the 27th August, 1860.

We beg respectfully to represent to your Majesty, that whereas by such Order we are subjected to English law in this country, we are thereby deprived of our right to a jury in civil cases, and our affairs are left to the arbitrary decision of Judges, without the necessary guarantees which are at home maintained for the due administration of justice; and we must point out that the conductors of the public Press are here subjected to trials for libel, and amerced in heavy damages, in defiance of the constitutional provision that in such cases of libel the jury is judge both of the law and the fact. Thus neither the safeguard of the jury nor the freedom of the Press are guaranteed; individuals are intimidated, and the community left unprotected, while our public concerns are not transacted to our satisfaction.

We beg respectfully to submit that on the provisions of the Order in Council we have never been consulted, neither have we, nor the members of the other English communities in this Empire, accorded our consent; and accordingly we did in the course of last year submit, through your Majesty's Ambassador in this country, a Memorial to Earl Russell, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as did the community of Constantinople, requesting a jury, but we regret to state the requirements of these Memorials have not been granted, though we know no reason why they should not, for we feel that, as we have the right to ask for our privileges, so we are able to exercise them in such way as shall be becoming to ourselves and dutiful towards our country.

We claim the more earnestly the grave consideration of your Majesty in Council, because by the withholding of our rights we are exposed to grievous wrongs, and a slur is cast upon us in this distant land, that we are unworthy of the name of Englishmen, and unable to protect ourselves. We pray, therefore, that this scandal be removed from us, and from our country, which we love none the less, though far removed from it; and for such kind interposition in our behalf we shall be ever thankful to your Majesty and your Council.

Smyrna, December 20, 1861.

(Signed) Hyde Clarke.
Charles E. Browning.
R. W. Price.
Wm. Wright.
A. F. Lawson.
Saml. Tapps.
Chas. Ruscoe.
J. W. Stevens.
Charles Simes.
Henry Simes.
Edward Roper.
Thomas J. Farley.
Duncan Forbes.
Samuel Durrant.
Thomas Lawson.
Charles Ball.

(Signed) William Smith.
Edward A. Drew.
William A. Maltass.
Algernon Kyan.
P. Nelles.
D. B. Bain.
T. H. Livey.
John W. D. Bain.
Saml. Hirst.
Gabrielle Lewis.
E. Edwards.
William P. K. Lewis.
Fred. Charnaud.
W. B. Tristram.
J. Gardner.
A. Routh.

Octavius A. Borrell.	F. H. Purdie.
John K. Fisher.	Alfred J. Lawson.
Francis Archer.	Edwin Sidney Joly.
Thos. Miller.	Sidney H. Maltass.
Osc. Edwards.	C. Whittall, Jun.
A. Perkins.	W. Griffitt.
James Wm. Kealy.	Fred. Pechoee.
Fredk. Whittall.	G. S. Mitchell.
F. Herrinder.	James F. Tuson.
Fredk. Turrell.	William Chasseaud.
George Purdie.	Henry Schnell.
E. St. L. Johnson.	J. Jones.
Chm. Whittall.	Maurice Wolff.
John Crick.	C. Hadkinson.
J. Wade.	Jas. Hadkinson.
C. W. Woodfall.	Charles Wood.
Wm. Shotton.	Charles R. Dallas.
Wm. S. Fergusson.	Nelson P. Browning.
George Fyfe.	J. T. Wood.
John Wester.	Robt. Hadkinson.
Thos. Turnbull.	James Steven.
Fredk. Wyatt.	Edwd. Hadkinson.
Thos. Hatton.	R. Whittall.
John Rutter.	Francis Joly.
James Jones.	J. Mc Leron.
Edward Tonks.	John Smith.
George Isaacs.	James Wilson.
R. Jones.	Edwin Duckworth.
C. Whittall.	T. H. Ingham.
Jas. Whittall.	Wm. Wooding.
H. George.	John Duckworth.
Geo. Watkins.	Robert Waight.
H. Maltass.	A. Edwards.

No. 8.

Earl Russell to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1862.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that the Memorials from British residents at Constantinople and at Smyrna, praying that trial by jury in civil cases may be allowed in the British Consular Courts, which were inclosed in your Excellency's despatches of January 8 and of March 21, have been duly considered by Her Majesty's Government; together with your Excellency's observations on the subject contained in your despatch of the 19th of March, and those of Sir Edmund Hornby's, the Judge of the Supreme Consular Court.

Before pronouncing a decision on this important matter, it has been thought right to submit the different papers to the consideration of the Law Advisers of the Crown, under whose opinion I have now to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government cannot at present accede to the prayer of the Memorialists for the introduction of trial by jury in civil cases brought before any of the British Consular Courts in the Ottoman dominions.

You will acquaint the several Memorialists with the decision at which Her Majesty's Government have arrived.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 9.

Earl Russell to Sir E. Hornby.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1862.

I HAVE to acquaint you that the Memorials from the British residents at Constantinople and at Smyrna, praying that trial by jury in civil cases may be allowed in the British Consular Courts, together with the observations on the subject made by Sir Henry

Bulwer, and by yourself in your despatch of the 31st of March, have been duly considered by Her Majesty's Government, in communication with the Law Advisers of the Crown; and that I have acquainted Sir Henry Bulwer that Her Majesty's Government cannot at present accede to the prayer of the Memorialists.

I am not aware whether you have seen the Memorials, and I therefore inclose copies of them, with the signatures attached to them, which will enable you to test the opinion expressed in your despatch by the character and occupation of the several parties who signed the Memorials.

With reference, however, to the further consideration of the question submitted by the Memorialists, I should wish to receive from you a report on the manner in which trial by jury in those criminal cases to which by the Order in Council it is made applicable, has answered; and how many such trials take place in every year; and whether they give satisfaction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 10.

Earl Russell to Sir H. Bulwer.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 16, 1862.*
I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 28th ultimo, inclosing two Petitions dated the 20th of December last to the Queen in Council, from British residents at Smyrna, praying that trial by jury in civil cases may be established in the British Consular Court; and I have to refer your Excellency to my instruction of the 8th instant, as containing the answer to be returned to those petitioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RUSSELL.

No. 11.

Sir E. Hornby to Earl Russell.—(Received June 6.)

(Extract.)

Supreme Consular Court, Constantinople, May 27, 1862.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 8th instant, in which, while transmitting me, for my information, a copy of the Memorials from the British residents at Constantinople and at Smyrna, praying that trial by jury in civil cases may be allowed in British Consular Courts, your Lordship informs me that Her Majesty's Government cannot at present accede to the prayer therein contained.

Had it been possible and practicable, even with the faintest chance of success, to have introduced the system of trial by jury in civil cases into Consular Courts, I should have been one of the first to have urged its adoption on Her Majesty's Government; but I felt that the popularity which amongst one section of the community I might have earned by following such a course, would have been dearly purchased at the price of the confusion, inconvenience, heart-burnings, and positive injustice which trial by jury would entail upon British communities in the East.

I am obliged to your Lordship for inclosing me copies of the Memorials, which I had not seen. Many of those who signed, have since assured me that they did so to affirm a principle, not knowing whether trial by jury was practicable here or the reverse, leaving that to be decided on by the authorities, who, they presumed, possessed sufficient data to enable them to form an opinion.

The mode in which trial by jury in criminal cases is conducted, is extremely simple. I extract from the register about fifty or sixty names, this being about the number of persons here, who in England would be liable to serve. These I write on slips of paper, which, being folded, are put into a hat. Two days before the trial I call on the counsel for the prisoner and one of the clerks, or perhaps a stranger, to draw each a paper, one after the other, until twenty-four names are drawn. Of these twenty-four, I summon the first twelve, and from the first six of this dozen who on the day of trial answer to their names, the jury is composed. As we have seldom more than four or five criminal cases in the course of the year, in respect of which, under the Order in Council, it is necessary to call a jury, the necessity for attendance falls extremely light on the community. The system, therefore, works well and appears to give satisfaction.

PAPERS relative to Applications for Trial by Jury in
Civil Cases in Turkey.

*Presented to the House of Commons by Command
of Her Majesty, in pursuance of their Address
dated July 7, 1862.*

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